



1st Gundaroo Scouts Group Newsletter

Issue 1
June 2009

Way to go Scouts!

What a fantastic first Term for Scouts in Gundaroo... and **an enormous thank you** goes to Andrew Mackie for his tireless efforts to establish the 1st Gundaroo Scout group in 2009. He says he has a day job, but I don't know where he's found the time to fit it in!

The Term kicked off with the leaders' induction ceremony on the land overlooking Lake George (most of them

from your Group President, Jules Bray

had no idea what they were getting themselves into!), which was quickly followed by the overwhelming turnout on registration day, resulting in nearly 70 Gundaroo Scouts being registered.

My kids are loving Joeys and Cubs, especially the badges! It's great to see their enthusiasm, and quite surprising to see a previously unknown organisational capacity appearing!

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Wow! a photo of the leaders standing in a row! WE NEED MORE PHOTOS OF KIDS IN ACTION!!

Group Leader's Report

Andrew Mackie (AKA Kanga)

'To say the Group has grown beyond our best estimates is an understatement.

In June last year we held a meeting to gauge the interest in the community for a Scout Group. I thought maybe Cubs and Scouts to start with. Not long after that first meeting it became clear that Joeys would be in the starting line up in Feb 09. Now Venturers have entered the fray. The adult leader volunteers have completed an extensive training course and have now been awarded the Gilwell Woggle as a sign of their authority to lead their sections. The Group Committee have assumed their roles and undertaken an extensive series of meetings and working groups to establish the administrative systems to support the Group. More importantly the enthusiastic

turn out each week by the young people of the Gundaroo region is very exciting.

We have made quite a splash in the Scouting community in both the ACT and NSW. Some Regional Office staff have even gone out of their way to drive through Gundaroo to see where all the Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers have come from. As we all know, Gundaroo is unique! More recently two leaders, Greg Kovacs (Venturers) and Shelby (Bagheera) Canterford (Cubs), went to work to build and host our Groups own webpage. Our thanks to Shelby's partner Conrad for hosting that site for us. All this activity is focused on setting up the structure of the Group and for the future benefit of the youth in our community. **Go Scouting!**

TAKE NOTE!!!

- **Bob-a-Job month** is coming up! Scouts of all ages will be offering their services in return for a donation to the Scout Group. Richard Fleming has more details on 0404 461 116.
- **Advance notice** — There will be a Family Camp at Wee Jasper either late in Term 3 or early Term 4. If you have a preference, let David Fawcett know soon on 6236 8123 so we can accommodate as many families as possible
- **A volunteer parent** is needed to put the newsletter together once a term — this would be your contribution, so you'd come off the rosters. Contact Jules Bray on 62368086.
- **NOTICE OF AGM**
The 2nd July Group Committee meeting will be our first AGM, with elections for officebearers. 7.30pm at the Hall.
You are all invited.

Venturers are GO!

Greg Kovacs, Venturer Leader and Website engineer

Venturers at Gundaroo started with a bit of hanging around! The opening night of Venturers had prospective Venturers and other Venturers from Crowajingalong Venturer Unit stacking milk crates and climbing as high as they can possibly go. The local residents may have noticed the generator running at the oval and the ropes strung out like a Chinese laundry. This was all to keep the high balancing youth safe.

Gundaroo Scout Group has three interested teens raring to be invested into Venturers. This is a great start, but there is room for more, much more. We are looking for **anyone aged between 14 and 18 years old** and lives in the Gundaroo district. Any potential Venturers must have an interest in breaking boredom and seeking to achieve goals through their only limitation – their imagination.

The Venturer award scheme is based on four major areas: Adventurous Activities, Community Involvement, Leadership Development and Personal Growth.

Currently on the program for this term is a camp to either Wee Jasper or Bungonia for an adventurous activity weekend. This will involve the Venturers and their Leaders abseiling into dark wet holes, squeezing through gaps that are barely taller than a can of soft drink, becoming completely covered in mud and then climbing back out via a wire ladder or dumarung back up the abseil rope. While in these caves they will witness formations such as stalactites, stalagmites, flow stones,



Casey Fitzpatrick just hanging around on opening night

halectites and more beautiful calcarious encrustations.

Also on the program is a weekend of planned assistance to the Weekend Wide Game, held each year by Rovers on the South Coast. This year it is being held at Potato Point and they require Venturers in the running of the event (primarily for the Scout Section). It will be an interesting weekend of negotiating, using their initiative and managing others as well as further developing leadership skills.

Later in August the Venturers have planned to spend some time Skiing at Selwyn Snowfields. They will be camping on a property at Adaminaby, just a short drive to the snow. If they are lucky it will snow at their campsite. But this will not worry them, as they

will have a bonfire fit to roast a giant to keep them warm.

Other programming possibilities for Venturers for the rest of the year are endless. There is the possibility during Spring to go prospecting for sapphires near Oberon, going down the Murrumbidgee River on tyre tubes during Summer, Hiking Expeditions, rock climbing days at Booromba Rocks or Gibraltar Peak. But that is all up to the imaginations of the Venturers themselves.

Venturers run their own unit. They elect a unit Chair and set up a council structure to administer the unit. When that is done, as a Leader, I am there to give advice and assist the Unit Council run the unit.

In regards to Thursday night activities, have a look at the website and check out the program which is always up-to-date and current.

<http://www.1stgundarooescouts.org.au>

Please be aware, if you live in the Village, you may get a knock on the door between 8pm and 10pm on Thursday 2nd of July with a young adult wanting to swap an obscure object like an egg for something that you have of equal or greater value.

They will also be conducting activities such as night time navigation and night hiking, cooking with minimal resources and only a fire.

If you know someone that would like to be part of the fun, please contact me on greg@ahia.org.au or 0427 962258.

Huge Thankyou to the 2008 GBF Committee and the Community

The 1st Gundaroo Scout Group recently received a disbursement of approximately \$7500 from the proceedings of the 2008 Gundaroo Bush Festival. This was the largest single disbursement from the event and

reflects the village's recognition of the early success and huge potential of our group. The Committee is exceptionally thankful of the GBF support and the wider communities efforts in raising these funds. While the disbursement is tied to the construction of a storage facility for Scouts at the current Hall,

the outcome will make a significant difference to the viability of the groups activities and to the safety of our members (who will no longer have to cross Cork St to access the temporary store, generously provided by John Donley). Further details available from Phil Langworthy.



Section update—Scout Troop

Gundaroo Scouts have had a very full-on introduction to Scouting life. With only one year to prepare for Jamboree, they're spending many nights under canvas—and it seems to be nearly always wet canvas! Apparently the best way to ensure rain is to plan a Scout camp, and these guys are now formally known as the Storm Troop. But would you believe they're loving it—some are even wanting more rain and wind for their camps!

The Troop consists of 3 patrols: Panthers, Tigers and Quokkas. At least 16 attend each Monday night, and

we're hoping to send 12 to Jamboree in January. All the Troop members are going for their Pioneer badge. Some have already earned elective badges in Music and Heritage. Campcraft and Citizenship badges are the focus this term, and Anna (Brumby) has qualified for her first aid badge—yes, leaders get badges too.

So far, Scouts have visited Duntroon Campbell troop, and hosted the DC troop here for Anzac Day. Shrek—a Scout leader from Sydney, and the local Venturers have also visited and enlivened the Patrols with their knowledge and experience. Earlier this year the Troop

attended the ACT Region Patrol competition 'Cotter Shield.' The Troop was widely welcomed by the ACT Branch and the Patrols acquitted themselves very well earning two Pioneer awards and Panthers earning an Explorer level award for the weekend. More recently they've done some moon and star gazing, and a big hike to Mt Murray gold mines and air crash site.

Upcoming activities include rock-climbing in Mitchell, and the Scouts have also come up with some great ideas for fundraising, including a possible quiz night for kids later in the year. More Soon!



1/9 of the Cub Pack—Nick, Daan and Jake

Section Update—Cub Pack

The Cubs are a force to be reckoned with! We have a very large pack of 27 Cubs, broken into 5 sixes. We started out with 2 leaders (Bagheera and Akela) but when it became clear that 2 people couldn't manage that many eager Cubs we managed to convince Baloo to join us. Ideally, we would have 4 leaders with this many Cubs, so if you are even remotely interested please come and talk to one of us.

We spent the first term focusing on The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling. The Cub program is built around the tales in this book, so it was a good introduction to scouting. This term has

started well, with many of the Cubs finishing their First Aid badge. Our focus for the rest of the term is on space, with many of the nights having space themed activities. Cubs that participate and do a small amount of work at home will go home with the Space badge by the end of the term.

In between all that space, we are teaching the Cubs many of the basics of practical scouting. Knots, navigation and campfires are all on the schedule this term. We will revisit these skills many times over in the life of the pack, but this first time seems so exciting, like we've just grown up.

Section Update—

Well, the first term of Joey Scouts flew by really fast. This term focused on getting to know what Scouts is all about, and learning the Joey Promise and Law. We have a great Joey Mob averaging 10-12 in attendance each week. They are very enthusiastic and have heaps of energy.

A bit of environmental awareness and a great river walk saw the Jokeys secure their very first participation badge—the Environment badge. We caught bugs and small fish using nets the Jokeys had made from coathangers and old stockings.

We made pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, 5 Minute Chocolate Cake (yum!), engaged in a few craft activities and played stacks of games. The highlight of the term was the Joey Mob Riot organized by the Belconnen Scouts. Six groups from Belconnen and Gundaroo met at John Knight Park, and the theme was Mad Science. And mad it was! Having fun is the best way to learn.

This term is focused on Adventure, for their next badge. We will be rock climbing, bowling, tripping to the War Memorial and visiting the moon!



Paper helicopter craft

Equipment needed

We've been the very happy recipients of some generous donations of equipment, but we still need quite a number of items, large and small. If you have any of the following and don't need or use them anymore, give Tony Webber a call on 6236 8477

Item	Quantity	Item	Quantity	Item	Quantity
fire irons/grill	1	storage trunks	several large	bush saw	2
18 gal water heater	1x stainless steel	kitchen shelter	1	spade small	2
camp oven	1 x cast iron	stores tent	1 x large heavyduty	pick small	2
tables	2	patrol tents	3 x 6 person heavyduty	axe small	2
Gas cooker 3-ring	1 x heavy duty	hike tents	3 x 2 person lightduty	torch	3
frying pans	several	tent repair kit	1	camp lights	3
buckets—strong with handles	3	spare first aid equip for training	Bandages, slings etc	ropes	roll 8mm hemp roll 10mm hemp
bench seats	6 folding aluminium	first aid kit small	1	fire knapsack	1
9kg gas bottle	1	file/sharpening stone	1	bush poles	many

Jamboree! Jamboree! Jamboree! Jamboree!

AJ2010. The biggest Scouting event in Australia. It only occurs here every three years and it is expected that 12,000 Scouts will attend this event. Its fantastic fun. We now have 12 Scouts lined up to go to Jamboree and three leaders (Brumby, Dingo, and Kanga) registered as well. Deposits have been paid and we have started fundraising to support the Troop's attendance. The next payment is due at the end of this month and to date

we will not have raised enough money to cover this payment. We will let you know closer to the date if there is a gap in funds available for this next payment.

Please be prepared to join in the fund raising activities or let me know if are not able to spare the time and would rather pay the fees. Its ok, we are just trying to help out with the cost. The Scouts are progressing well to meeting the

requirement to have earned the Pioneer big red badge before September 09. There is also a requirement for 10 nights camping (with Scouts) before we go so you need to attend the camps that are programmed or perhaps you will need to organise a Patrol Camp to make up the nights. Speak to your Patrol Leader about it. We should be hearing about our Jamboree Troop and sub-camp number soon. I'll keep you posted. **Kanga.**

Potential Scouting Lease of Outdoor Recreation Area on the Lake George Escarpment.



View from the top of the escarpment

The Committee is currently investigating the possibility of our local group (or State Association) gaining a licence to use a substantial acreage of land in close proximity to Gundaroo village. The land is owned by the NSW Govt and administered through the Dept. of Lands and would offer a dedicated outdoor recreation area up on the Lake George Escarpment with open space, lightly wooded areas and an old shearing shed. The land can be

accessed by 2WD from Ridge Road off the Old Federal Highway, by 4WD via road easements off Dairy Flat Road, or by foot from the end of Dairy Flat Road. This exciting opportunity would allow navigation activities, outdoor adventures and other training in our own region and would also allow the Joeys, Cubs and Scouts to gain an understanding of land management and environmental sustainability.

Further details available from Phil Langworthy.

