



News & Views

From Scouting Otago

Volume 8 Issue 4

TEAM WORK

If you missed the 2005 Otago Area Gang Show and if any of your youth members missed this outstanding performance you and they missed a treat. We have asked Noel and Sue Walker to produce another for us in 2007.

The whole Gang Show, its management, rehearsals and production are achieved by a series of teams who work together with one aim. They certainly achieved their aim. The willingness of so many people to work together is an example any organization can use.

Scout Groups can take obvious lessons because within a Scout Group people need to work as a series of teams. A team runs each section. The support team (Group Committee) helps the leaders find more help for the day-to-day running of each section. The leaders meeting together as the Group Council can focus on the needs of each section and ensure that there is a smooth progression for the youth members from one section to the next. Group Councils are meetings of the warranted leaders and P.A.L.s and should meet at least once a term. The meetings of support teams, Group Councils and even meetings of the leaders in each section need not be long. If any goes over 1 hour it is too long and someone is talking too much! Forty-five minutes should be enough unless it is a social occasion and these are good add-ons from time to time.

Most of our Districts and Groups work together in their teams in great harmony and of course where they do there is progress and achievement.

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

“Hec” Browett

Deputy Area Commissioner

Shop Prices

As some may be aware there has been a change in policy at Scouting Direct whereby all of their authorised retail shops would pay retail prices from 1 July 2005.

We were faced with two alternatives. We could either close our "Shop" or continue to provide a service to the Groups by providing a range of badges, certificates, woggles, shirts etc.

At a recent Administration Committee Meeting it was decided to continue this operation as a service to Groups and parents. As we are now paying retail rates we have to add a small markup to cover our overheads, such as administration, postage and wages.

This markup is 10% and a \$2.00 cub badge, for example, will now be sold by us at \$2.20.

Groups who have accounts with Scouting Direct will know that they pay postage and handling and this is \$1.50 for items posted and \$10.00 for larger items that are couriered.

Our records show that we supply a large number of Groups and Sections within those Groups and in the main purchases reflect the activity as it happens. For example a parent of a new Cub would buy a shirt from us and the Cub leader would want a Cub Badge, a World Membership Badge and an Investiture Certificate for that Cub. Quantities required by Leaders vary but it is usually two of this, three of that and therefore no Group has too much money tied up in badges etc.

We believe our new prices will not be much different to those of Scouting Direct, when postage and freight are taken into consideration.

Your continued support would be appreciated.

Ross Davidson

Administration Manager

There was a job to be done and everybody was asked to do it. But everybody thought somebody would do it. Anybody could have done the job, but nobody did. In the end everybody blamed somebody when nobody did what anybody could have done.

From Charles Donoghue's book *The Choice is yours*.

Kea Scout News



I hope that you all have still been able to get outside for your programmes as we have had such good weather over the last few weeks. I would love to hear from you about some of the exciting things your clubs have been doing or even photos that I could put in News and Views.

Gang Show

Thank you to all the leaders who passed on the kea colouring competitions to their keas. We had a great response from the kea section. First prize went to Reuben Bisset from the Balclutha Kea Club, well done.

J.O.T.A.

This is on the 15th October 2005. Please make an effort to visit your local J.O.T.A. site and let the Keas have a go on the radios. Badges are available for this from your local J.O.T.A. organiser.

Cooking Competition

Remember this is on Sunday 30th October 2005. More details out soon.

National Kea Scout Day

This will be in April 2006. This is held every two years, so each Kea should get to attend one Kea day.

Keep up the good work in your clubs, remember if you have any problems I am only a phone call away.

Sue Smith
Area Kea Leader

The difference between opportunity and wishful thinking is that an opportunity is possible.
Charles Donoghue

Sea Scouting and Water Activities

Otago and Southland Regatta will again be held at Labour Weekend at McNulty Inlet, Lake Dunstan. Sea Scout Groups are reminded to register their intention to attend by Friday 19 August. Scouts from any section and of any age who are holidaying in the Cromwell area are welcome to call in, picnic by the lake, watch the sailing and possibly even go out in a boat.

Sea Scout Groups should be completing the final stages of winter boat maintenance ready for their surveys during September.

We have not managed to arrange for a weekend Day Skipper Certificate course yet. Members who had shown interest earlier in the year and any others have an opportunity to attend a course at Kaikorai Valley College during October and November. The classes will be on Wednesday evenings. This is an excellent basic course run by the Royal New Zealand Coastguard for recreational boaties. Details are available from Ruth Pearce or myself.

Finally, a plea to all Scout Groups in Otago. If you are considering planning any form of water activity, please contact me. I will be more than happy to answer questions and to offer advice or assistance to ensure that your activity is safe and lots of fun.

Murray Body
Area Water Activities Advisor

Training Team Update

Members of the Area Training Team have had various meetings with District Commissioners and Group Leaders to establish the training needs of the leaders. On Sunday 21 August the training team will be meeting to plan the training calendar for the next 12 months. We are looking for more people able to help with training and if you know of anyone who would be suitable and available please contact Kaye Mowat on 03 418 0156 or email rod.jop@ihug.co.nz or Ruth Pearce on 477 6644 or email trainingsupport@scoutingotago.org.nz

Rover Report

This year so far the Crew Otago Rovers have gone from strength to strength. We started the year with 6 enthusiastic Rovers and now we are sitting on 15. We started the year winning the Fergus McLaren Banner at Moot – along with the first female cross country - Erika did that - and third team for the mixed Tug-o-War and third for the gals!!!

We have also been to Timaru Ball and got into the paper there!!! Most of the crew has been involved in Gang Show in some way – 6 on stage and 3 in makeup.

We are currently doing a raffle to get all of us to Moot next year in Dargaville. It is a service raffle – you pay \$2.00 for a ticket and first prize is 20 man-hours of service, 2nd and 3rd prize are 10 man-hours of service. Man-hours means, for example, that if 5 rovers turn up they have to work for 4 hours each. Tickets can be brought from any Rover – just give them a call.

We are also selling the Cub Cookies so all the groups can try a piece and buy a packet. They are \$3.00 a packet and very yummy. We need to sell all 500 packets and they are coming out late August early September.

In October the crew is running the Area swimming sports – this is for all Keas, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders. Notices will be arriving shortly. This area event needs to have all support in order for it to be a great night.

As you can see our crew is still going. We are also organising a Venturer Out. This is for any senior Scouts, 14 ½ and over, including Venturers and Rovers. It is going to be held on 9 -11 September, cost \$25.00 each. Notices have been sent to Units and emailed to Groups.

Our major event this year is happening in Nov/ Dec, where we are planning to cycle a long distance – we will need everyone's support to help us get through this. I can't say too much as we have to finalise a few details, but when we do, watch out and help us make Scouting known.

Congratulations to Michael Smith for gaining his BP award. This is the highest award a Rover can get and it has been because Michael has contributed immensely for 5 years for the Crew in service, social and self development - the 3 parts of Rovering that Michael has achieved.

Also Congratulations to Bridget Wheatley for attaining her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. She has been working towards this for a number of years and completed the Gold requirements. Her award presentation will be on the 17th September with the Governor General.

Bridget Wheatley - Crew Leader

FIRST AID COURSE

This will be held on 1st & 2nd October 2005 at Mosgiel.

Free to all Leaders and parents over 16 (Under 16 years of age cost is \$100.00)
Refresher course is Saturday only (7 hours); total course is all day Saturday plus 3-4 Hours Sunday. This is an NZQA accredited course with a professional trainer. To enable the course to be NZQA accredited you must bring along a birth certificate or passport.

It is planned to have a shared lunch.

Other Free Courses can be arranged to suit if necessary and it is possible to join in on any courses currently being run if times and dates fit in with spare capacity. If you already have a First Aid certificate you have 3 months to renew it after the expiry date before you have to re-sit the complete certificate.

All those interested need to contact Kim Burgess directly (Phone 03 489 7231) to register for this course.

A campfire stunt

A scout comes into the circle carrying a bucket of water and a wash cloth. He/she squeezes it out and mimes as though cleaning a window and returns to a place outside the circle. He repeats this once or twice between other items.

The last time he throws the contents of the bucket into the audience (the bucket is empty this time, of course, or contains torn paper, leaves, etc).

Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss it you
will land among the stars.

Les Brown

GANG SHOW

Once again 2005 Gang Show was a huge success. This was the 25th Otago Show which was a special one.

We held a reunion for past and present gang members and backstage personnel over the years back to 1956. We had a special performance and a reunion dinner held at Wobbly's Restaurant with over 163 people attending, coming from all over New Zealand and overseas.

Gang Show is a huge credit to Noel and Sue Walker, co-producers, who travel from Te Anau for the four months of rehearsals and the show and still have time to run their Te Anau Scout Group.

Thank you to all the groups who brought their youth members and supported the show. I am sure they will have enjoyed it.

The Show featured in the Otago Daily Times.

The next show will be in 2007.

The winners of the Gang Show colouring competitions are:

Keas – Reuben Bisset, Balclutha

Cubs – Gemma Baldock, Macandrew Bay

Best Practices of Successful Scout Groups

40 Groups responded nationally covering a wide range of areas throughout New Zealand. These Groups all have growth figures well above the national average and have enabled the researchers to draw some valuable information from their responses.

75% of the groups stated they had committed well-trained and prepared leaders who delivered good and consistent programmes. 48% of the groups had good programmes that were exciting, interesting and fun and appealed to youth. A high emphasis was placed on outdoor activities and camping.

The role of the group leader and the running of regular (at least one per term) group councils were seen as critical to the group's success. Ongoing support to each section by Area Leaders providing assistance and advice was seen as important. All the groups had an active and effective Group Support Team.

The greatest membership loss (81%) occurred when youth members were due to move from one section to the next. If this linkage is more carefully managed, then it could bring a significant reversal to our membership losses. This again is an area where the group leader can play an important role.

Time Check for Scout Leaders

How long is it since you:

Handed the entire running of the Troop Meeting over to your Assistant Scout Leader?

Invited the DC to visit the Troop, rather than wait for him to invite himself?

Ran a wide game?

Asked the group leader's advice?

Visited the pack/unit/another troop?

Held a mid-week Scouts' Own?

Mastered a new technical skill yourself with a view to passing it on to your Patrol Leaders?

Took a night off scouting to take your mother/girlfriend/wife to the pictures?

If the answer to any of the above questions is less than three months, award yourself ten points.

If over three and less than six, five points.

If more than that, do six press-ups, clapping your hands on the rise, and try to do better in future.

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR - J.O.T.A.

Is an international event usually held the weekend before Labour weekend. This year it is being held on the 14 – 16 October.

Steps to take are:

1. Agree to take part
2. Locate a friendly ham radio operator to set up a station for you
3. Order badges at \$1.00 each from Scouting Direct

There is an event badge for this international event before the 7 September. J.O.T.A. stations can be run from anywhere - the operator's home, your den or hall. Make sure it is warm and keep the operator nourished. He is the person who is your connection to international scouting. When speaking into the hand piece speak clearly and confidently. Don't have everyone in the room chirping away because you will be distracted. Prepare what you going to say, i.e. "Hi! My name is ...I am a Cub, Scout, or whatever in the ...Scout Group in Dunedin (Mosgiel, Alexandra) then say "over" then the person on the other end will give their name, etc. Then he/she will say "over". You once more give them information maybe about your hobbies, pets, school, scouts, and about the locality of where you are calling from. Then say "over" and they will give you their version of where they are, etc. Be confident! The operator will coach you as you go along. Who knows, you might make a lifetime pen pal.

JAMBOREE ON THE INTERNET - J.O.T.I.

Same as above only it can be run from your own home. Badges cost the same price but are called J.O.T.I. and of course you are not calling out "over" after every sentence.

Both forms of communicating are exciting. So let's participate in J.O.T.A./J.O.T.I.

AREA OFFICE - MEETING AREAS

To avoid clashes please register your wish to hold a meeting, training session, planning session or whatever with Ross at the Area office.

We often have two gatherings going on at the same time and this works out quite well but it does come as a surprise to some to find that someone else is there. An email or phone call is all it takes to ensure that there is space for your event. It is good that the place is busy and well-used.

GROUP ANNUAL MEETINGS

All Groups and Districts in Otago have had mailed to them a reminder that the Scouting Financial Year ends on 30 September. To hold their annual meetings by the end of the 2005 calendar year means that groups need to plan and prepare. Many groups have adopted their own workable plan and that is good.

Remember that most leaders and parents as well as youth members seem to get very involved in the weeks leading up to Christmas, therefore a date must be set to suit as many as possible. If possible whole families should be involved. I have seen some very happy gatherings involving some too young to be Keas and also grandparents.

A barbecue for all combined with a well planned meeting can be a social event, end-of-year “break-up” for the group and a special time to thank all helpers formally and informally.

Reports and financial statements should be kept short and preferably sent out in advance. Someone needs to do the homework with regard to who is going to join the Support Team (Group Committee) – please don’t call it a Parents’ Committee.

Group annual meetings do not have to be advertised in newspapers. Scouting rules require that your District Commissioner be invited and that ALL parents are too. A bit of phoning around does help get a few more people along.

The Group Council and current Support Team must know what should work in their local community. Plan carefully and work towards a successful event.

Best wishes for ALL Scout Groups in Otago to have successful annual meetings before the end of the year!

‘Hec’

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

We have had reports of lots of outdoor activities by Cub and Scout sections over the last few months – camps, hikes (day outings), the Tainui Brass Monkey (58 Cubs).

This is what scouting is about.

Well done (pat on the back) to all the leaders who initiated the activities!

IMPORTANT - New Warrant Procedure

This procedure will be adopted immediately.

All new Leaders or those returning to Scouting after a break of more than two years will undertake Scouting Unpacked Training and will complete the warrant application form which can be found in the Scouting Unpacked workbook. Once the warrant application has been cleared by National Office the applicant will be permitted to commence service as a Probationary Leader.

A warrant will not be issued until First Hundred Days Training has been completed. The National Secretary may terminate service as a Probationary Leader at any time and will do so if First Hundred Days training is not completed within a reasonable time (usually within 100 days of submitting the warrant application).

Scouting Unpacked workbooks are available from Area Training Leaders and from Scouting Direct.

An updated fact sheet entitled "Appointment Process" is available on Scouting New Zealand website.

Snow and Mountaincraft Schools – For beginners and experts

National Scout Snow School: 25 September - 2 October 2005 – Explorer Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders

National Scout Mountaincraft School: 02 - 07 October 2005 – Venturers, Rovers and Leaders

Don't forget there are still places available at these schools. More details are available on the National Website in the National Schools section. And remember, if you plan on trying to get funding for attendance at one of these schools, the sooner you get on to it the better. Last year one Venturer Unit was successful in obtaining nearly \$3000 in grants for these schools.

25th Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Jamboree 2005

The 25th Asia-Pacific Regional Jamboree will be held from 28th December 2005 - 3 January 2006 at Had Yao, Sattahip, Chonburi, Thailand, about 180 kms Southeast of Bangkok. The camp site is located on a beautiful beachfront on the Gulf of Thailand. The theme of the event is "Scouting: the Road to Peace". For more information visit <http://www.aprjam25.org>. Expressions of interest to National Office.

HANDY CONTACT INFORMATION

Area Commissioner	Vacant		
Deputy Area Commissioner	Hec Browett	487 6726	hec@scoutingotago.org.nz
Assistant Area Commissioner Development	Brian Robertson	03 418 0205	
Area Treasurer	Greg Verhoef	454 3366	greg@horwathdn.co.nz
Area Support Office Manager	Ross Davidson	477 6644	admin@scoutingotago.org.nz
Area Training Leader	Kaye Mowat	03 418 0156	rod.jop@ihug.co.nz
Programme and Training Administration Manager	Ruth Pearce	477 6644	trainingsupport@scoutingotago.org.nz
Area Rover Leader	Vacant		
Area Venturer Leader	Vacant		
Area Trainer	Jeff Burrow	482 2233	JEFFBURROW@xtra.co.nz
Area Trainer	Neil Moyle	476 4294	moyleneil@hotmail.com
Area Kea Leader	Sue Smith	455 0144	thebigsmiths@hotmail.com
Area Water Activities Advisor	Murray Body	454 3709	mbody@xtra.co.nz
Assistant Area Water Activities Advisor	Russell McGrouther	03 442 8783	mcgroutherqtn@xtra.co.nz
District Commissioners			
Cargill	Arthur Bennett	455 0960	
Flagstaff	Bob Allcock	466 7515	trishbob@xtra.co.nz
Leith Stuart	Vacant		
Saddle Hill/Taieri	Karl Power	484 7604	karl.power@xtra.co.nz
South Otago	Rodney Jopson	03 418 0156	rod.jop@ihug.co.nz
North Otago	Derek Beveridge (Acting)	03 434 5567	derek.beveridge@police.govt.nz
Lakes	Curly Lewis	03 443 8103	
Central Otago	Brian Seymour	03 448 8290	bgseymour@xtra.co.nz