



News & Views

From Scouting Otago

A publication for Otago Scout Support Teams

**November/December 2004
Volume 7 Issue 6**

APPOINTMENTS

I am delighted to announce the following appointments:

Area Support Office Manager

Ross Davidson has taken on this role. Ross has been 'acting manager' for the last few months and has been doing an excellent job. We will advise office hours for 2005 in due course.

Area P & T Support Manager

Ruth Pearce has accepted this position. She brings a lot of experience to this very important position. Her job will involve maintaining the personnel database, identifying training requirements and scheduling courses. This means she will be in touch with groups and sections on a regular basis. Please provide her with 100% support.

Area Water Activities

Following the resignation of Gerald Paterson I am delighted to announce that Murray Body has accepted my invitation to take on this position. Murray has previous experience in this position and I couldn't hope to find a better person for the job.

TRAINING

The Area Training Leader position remains vacant. Despite regular attempts no-one has stepped up. I am hoping that with the appointment of an administration manager that people will see the ATL position as being more attractive. I welcome inquiries from ANYONE in the organisation.

AREA CALENDAR

Hec, Ross and Ruth have been working feverishly on the 2005 Calendar. We would normally plan to have this distributed earlier in the year but changes in the training program (among other things) has meant a delay. The Calendar provides an overview of the year in the Otago Area – other items will be added as the year progresses. The Calendar will be included on the NEW website!!

COMPUTERS

We are in the process of upgrading the computer system at the Area Support Office. Hopefully this will lead to an improved information system. The system will be in place before Christmas.

WEBSITE

We have employed Chris Pearce to assist us with the design of a NEW website for Otago Area. Watch this space....but if anyone has an interest in an on-going involvement with the website please contact the Area Commissioner or Ross Davidson.

FOUNDERS DAY

Planning is underway for 2005. Ian Hebbard has been appointed as the Founders Day Manager for 2005. He will help structure the weekend but it's success is dependent on YOU!!! Please assist Ian by responding quickly to any of his requests.

WAIORA DEVELOPMENT

Plans are well underway for the first 2 major developments for Waiora – the Adventure Trail and the barbecue area by the MTC. Original thoughts of completion by Founders Day might have vanished but both projects will DEFINITELY be completed before winter!!

JAMBOREE

We have a good contingent heading off to the Jamboree. My thanks to everyone who has made this possible. I hope it all goes well and that the children will have the positive life-shaping experience that comes from attending a Jamboree.

REGATTA 2004

The Annual Otago/Southland Regatta was once again held on Lake Dunstan @ Cromwell. Once again it was a great success. Here os Murray Body's report.

Following a popular decision in 2003 to make Lake Dunstan the "home" for the regatta, another successful weekend of Scout boating activities took place at Labour weekend based at the Dunstan Boating Club at McNulty Inlet near Cromwell.

Six Groups participated; Te Ara O Kiwa and Jellicoe from Southland, Andersons Bay, Taieri Mouth - Brighton and a combined Terra Nova - Monowai - Waitaha contingent from Otago, and Mount Pleasant from Canterbury.

Events included two rounds of rowing, one full round of cutter and sunburst sailing, swimming at the Cromwell pool, and seamanship theoretical and practical tests. The competition was divided into two sections; a Main Event section for the most experienced crews from each Group and a Participation section to ensure that all Scouts and Venturers had an opportunity to swim, row or sail during the weekend.

On the Saturday there was insufficient wind, but Sunday provided almost ideal conditions for the sailing. The swimming competition provided us with an interesting challenge - all the stopwatches were missing, so a little innovation was required to sort out placings - it is a long story!

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Cromwell College for the use of their Aquatic Centre, the Dunstan Boating Club, the Golden Oldies Netball team who did the catering, the Cromwell Rotary

Club for the use of the campsite and to Jon Witheford, Area Water Activities Advisor for Southland, who formally organised the weekend.

Now for the results in brief:- Mount Pleasant was the clear winner on points in the Main Event competition, but was ineligible to take home the trophy. Second place went to Terra Nova - Monowai - Waitaha, who look after the Skipper Jenkins Bell for another year and third place went to Andersons Bay.

The weekend will be remembered for the excellent spirit in which the competitions were held, the support of all the leaders from the various groups and the good behaviour and friendly rivalry of the boys and girls. We look forward to seeing more Groups attending next year.

Murray Body, Regatta Secretary

AREA COMMISSIONER'S CHALLENGES

1st July 2004 – 30 June 2005

1. Visit another group
2. Host another group
3. Try a new Scouting experience
4. Increase outdoor activities in your program by 10%
5. Increase your numbers by 5%

SEASONS GREETINGS & THANKS

As this will be the last News and Views for 2004 I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to Scouting in Otago in 2004. A special thanks to Hec Browett who has helped me weather the storms of 2004 – some of which I created, but many I didn't!! Without the many volunteer hours we wouldn't be able to offer the exciting programmes that we do.



Things are already in place for a successful 2005 and I look forward to working with you all. My best wishes to you and your families for a happy and safe summer break, and Christmas season

John Guthrie
Area Commissioner