



NEWS & VIEWS

From Scouting Coastal Otago
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October 2008



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Otago Southland Sea Scout Regatta

Regatta will take place at Lake Dunstan over Labour Weekend. Six Sea Scout Groups are attending with approximately 120 Scouts, Venturers and Leaders coming. Activities will include sailing, rowing, seamanship and other activities.

Founders Weekend 2009

Plan now to bring your youth to Founders Weekend at Waiora on Friday 20– Sunday 22 February 2009. Talk to them about it now. Start them thinking and planning about it now.

Venturer antics



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FROM YOUR ZONE LEADER— ‘Hec’

Census: In the last issue I complained that we still needed some returns. We finally finished the task and found that our youth membership remained almost the same with our Leader numbers increasing. I shall soon be posting to Group Leaders a summary and some comments. Please share these with other Leaders and your Group Committee.

Group Leader: It is a national requirement that each group with more than one section should have a Group Leader. Where there is no Group Leader appointed I, as Zone Leader have to appoint someone to carry out the key tasks. These are 1. approving and signing Activity Intention Forms—after checking and 2. checking on warrant referees (by phoning) and signing the warrant application forms.

It is most pleasing to note a lot of outdoor activity, courses and to know that groups are carefully planning their annual meetings. Remember that the Scout Financial year ended on 30th September and financially checked group accounts are presented at your Group Annual Meeting. Keep up the very good work and look forward to a wonderful Scouting in 2009.



SWIMMING SPORTS

The Swimming Sports will be held on Saturday 8 November. Arrive at 4pm at the Mosgiel Pool on Gordon Road, Mosgiel. Let Ruth know if your Group is planning to attend. We need to know numbers so the Rovers can plan the programme. This will include lots of fun activities in the water.



SANDFORD

A great time was had by 50 Scouts and their Leaders at Sandford at Waiora recently. The Scouts were all buzzing by the time the weekend was over. Thanks to all those who helped with running bases being counselors, providing food, sorting sound equipment and just being there to help. Scouting needs people like you to make it work.



COSSGROVE COURSE

Coming up is the Cossgrove Course starting on Friday 21 November. This course will help your Scouts to learn new skills and to get the most out of their Scouting. Get your Scouts' registrations in now for this. There will be a limit of 24 Scouts attending and registrations close on 7 November. Contact Murray for more information phone 454 2530.



SCOUTS BRASS MONKEY

Opoho Scouts won the Scouts Brass Monkey trophy at Greenpark on 26, 27 July 2008.

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WAIORA

CAMPSITE

As most are aware Waiora is now trading as a separate entity of the Scouting Otago Coastal Zone and as such must succeed to make Waiora financially break even. The strict adherence to receiving a 25% deposit for any bookings of the buildings will be enforced. If you book the complex, MTC, 5 cabins, Troop Den, etc., the deposit must be paid at the time of booking. This deposit will be forfeited if the booking is cancelled within 4 weeks of the said booking. Several times this year bookings have been made for the complex and only the MTC used, or no event has been held at all! We cannot break even with empty buildings caused by non-events. We believe our charges and cancellation fees are in line with other venues around Otago. Currently the Campsite Committee is working towards a 5-10 year plan/budget for refurbishment and planning for Waiora, These will be advised in a newsletter at a later date.

Keys!! Several keys that were issued for Waiora have apparently been mislaid or lost and as unauthorized persons have been seen on the property it is our intention to re-key Waiora if we have to. The cost of this is approximately \$1500. This is serious money, hence if any keys have been in your possession and not returned please drop them into the Administration Manager at Scout HQ as soon as possible. This may save us a great deal of money which is very scarce at this time.

C.F.Sims

For Campsite Committee

A WORD FROM THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Having now been in the role for just over a month it has been an exciting time meeting the team and learning about the great things happening in all the zones of our region. Recently I had two experiences which proved to me the validity of the Scouting movement.

The first occasion was a Scout from Andersons Bay Group who came to our door selling raffle tickets. Here was a girl aged 13, maybe 14 dressed in full uniform (incl. badges) going door to door raising funds for her group. Her presentation was immaculate and one could easily tell that she was proud of her achievements. She was polite, friendly, confident and conversational. I closed the door after her and considered how wonderful it is to have such positive and articulate youth in our community.

The second occasion was when I was fortunate enough to be part of the Citizenship Panel quizzing two Roslyn Venturers as part of their final stage to achieving their Queens Scout Award. Again here were two positive, confident and articulate young adults. I was impressed with their belief in the Promise and Law and how they tried to live by it in all areas of their lives. They explained their participation and experiences as part of scouting and outlined how they can use these skills in their communities. They showed a sound knowledge of their community, and some of the issues being faced locally. They also provided suggestions on how some of these issues can be resolved. These young people are, and will be great ambassadors for the Scouting Movement and I look forward to seeing them

being involved in leadership roles for our youth members.

I thank all leaders who deliver these skills to our young people, it is the time and effort you give to the youth in your sections that allow them to grow and develop into successful members of our communities.

One of my short term goals is to be able to visit all the groups in the Zone. With AGM season soon to be upon us, this would be a great opportunity to visit your group and I would welcome an invitation to attend your AGM.

Yours in Scouting
Kevin McRae
Regional Development
Manager

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TRAINING



The following leaders completed their Scouting Principles Module on 3 September: David Noakes (Pitcairn), Bruce Smith (Macandrew Bay), Sandra Watt (Balclutha), Mark Way (Balclutha), Michelle van Rens (Andersons Bay), Dawie Sutton (Andersons Bay), David Peacock (Pitcairn), Phillipa Scott (Wakari), Andrew McConnell (Pitcairn).

The following leaders completed their Tools for the Job Module on 1 October: David Peacock (Pitcairn), Sam Cairns (Corstorphine), Bruce Smith (Macandrew Bay), Chris Clearwater (Mosgiel), Andrew McConnell (Pitcairn).

The module next month will be on Wednesday 5 November and will be Being Safe. Register for this now with Ruth Pearce at the Zone Office.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Programme and Training team's Christmas event will be held on Wednesday 3 December at 6.30pm at the Bowl Line in Kaikorai Valley Road and then at Cableways Tavern at 7.30pm. Invitations have gone out in the post for this to all Leaders. Register now by contacting Ruth at the Zone Office on phone 477 6644. We will need to know numbers for booking at both venues.



How to Improve through Innovation

Many businesses and other organisations are put off by innovation because it looks too hard to manage or because the leaders think it is all about having big, bold and radical ideas.

It's not, or at least it doesn't have to be. Much modern thinking about innovation centres on small, incremental changes to products, services, technology and the way things are done.

The majority of the ideas come from employees, as well as from managers and customers. Of course, there are big leaps in technology from time to time but the literature of innovation is full of examples of organisations that see innovation as a process rather than an big leap to a brave new world.

The process of continuous improvement is sometimes described as "quick and easy kaizen." It is a mechanism to get all employees involved in generating and implementing creative solutions.

Norman Bodek, who runs a Vancouver, Canada, printing company, says: "Instead of the big idea—the home run—let's concentrate on implementing many small ideas—score lots of singles—to keep the team moving forward and the individual players excited."

The method is different from traditional innovation. It's an implementation system not a suggestion system—the people who come up with the ideas also assist in implementing them.

The person who devises a solution writes it down into an idea summary specifying the problem, solution and benefits. This is then shared with others.

A key to this approach is making small changes on a sustained basis.

Steve Welch

HANDY CONTACTS

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