



NEWS & VIEWS

From SCOUTS Coastal Otago Zone
Volume 12 Issue 4 December 2009

FOUNDERS WEEKEND 2010

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Planning is under way now for this fun event for Friday 19-Sunday 21 February 2010. Get your youth thinking now about attending in the new year.

On the nearest Sunday to 22 February, the Founder's birthday, Scouts all over the world get together to celebrate the beginning of scouting. Robert Baden-Powell was born on 22 February 1857. His father died when he was three years old.

In 1876 he joined the army at the age of 19 and sailed for Bombay in India. He spent 10 years in India as an officer. In 1884 he went to Africa. It was as an army officer that BP learnt his scouting skills and had many adventures. He wrote a book entitled *Aids to Scouting* for his soldiers to learn scouting skills. When he returned to England he was surprised to learn that it was being used by schools and clubs to train boys. He rewrote it with boys in mind and so scouting started. He first took a mixed company of boys to camp on Brownsea Island in August 1907. From there the scouting organization began until today it is all around the world.

Baden-Powell died in 1947. Founders Day has been celebrated all over the world since soon after the Second World War.

Calling someone with:

- **passion**
- **enthusiasm to work with the adults of tomorrow**
- **a need to revisit their youth**
- **a need to challenge themselves & the youth we support**

We are desperately searching for a person or a team of people to operate in the position of Zone Scout Leader.

The Job description is basic:
to provide support to leaders in the running of the SCOUT programme
To coordinate activities and events for the Scout sections in the Zone
to liaise with the Zone Training Leader in identifying the training requirements of our leaders

Full support for this role will be provided by the Zone team.

This may suit someone that may not be able to commit to regular session nights but still wishes to support the youth or maybe someone whose child

has left the movement but still wishes to contribute to the Scout Movement. This is a vital role within our Zone Team & needs to be filled URGENTLY. Please take this opportunity to be part of a new Zone Team

Position 2 is equally important- the position of Zone Venturer Leader.

This position is becoming more important as the section is growing rapidly within our Zone. Liason between the Units requires some guidance with joint activities & with the Regional Venturer Leader, Mark Godsiff. The job description is very similar to that of the Zone Scout Leader.

Please pass this important message through to your leaders, parents & past members of your groups. That special person could be lurking in your reach. Help us all to move forward & make a positive change for our adults of tomorrow & today.

For more information contact Sandra ph: 489 8615

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FROM YOUR ZONE LEADER— Sandra

Welcome to the end of November 2009. However the year has not yet finished with Groups starting to hold their AGMs and end of year celebrations. Please remember to invite Kevin and or myself to these events. We would love to come and meet you and your families.

Hi, my name is Sandra Thompson. I am the new Zone Leader for Coastal Otago. My history (apart from being a Brownie & Guide all those years ago) started about 7 years ago at Mosgiel Keas to keep it going for my son. We started with 8 children & ended the year 10 months later with 18 Keas. Since then Mosgiel has run at 20 Keas with a substantial waiting list. I have also been on the Saddle Hill-Taieri District team as the District Kea Leader and assisted Groups in the District to restart a Kea section, aid another and get another Group going. My husband, David is the Group Leader & Venturer Advisor at Mosgiel while our sons - Joseph & Michael are PALs at Fairfield Cubs & Mosgiel Keas respectively.

As Zone Leader my aims are simple - to improve the cohesion of all Leaders & Groups in the Coastal Otago Zone & to increase the numbers of Leaders and youth members within our Groups.

We have several things coming up starting with the Christmas function for all Leaders and partners to be held on the 5th December at the Dunedin Lawn Bowls Club for a paltry \$10 per head (subsidised). The Santa Parade is on the 6th and the 150th Celebration for the A & P Show Grounds on the Taieri will see us hold a stand on the 23rd and 24th January 2010. Your assistance and participation with these high profile events will be invaluable to promote what we know is a great youth and adult organisation.

Past recent events have been the JOTA/JOTI held in October at Aramoana which was well supported and the Badgeathon which was poorly supported with only a handful of Scouts in attendance. More recently the Rovers held the annual Swimming Sports with enthusiastic participation from several Groups and involved the co-operation of the Aurora Rovers. Well done guys - we had a great day.

These are all great events that you can use to promote and strengthen your Group.

The Regional Conference was held on October 11th with great support from Leaders around the Lower South Island Region. The chance to speak with National Leaders was appreciated by both National & Group level Leaders getting a lot from the opportunity. Apparently the Lower South Island provided the most constructive & informative feedback during the breakout sessions.

The last Scouting Advanced Personal Development Course held in Mosgiel was considered a success by all those attending. All those connected to people who attended heard about the course for several days or in my case a couple of weeks afterwards. The inspiration passed on by them will filter through to other leaders and youth members and benefit us all. Please ensure that all leaders are given the chance to proceed to this high standard of achievement by passing on the word of training nights and events that can be credited to be accepted to partake in this great course.

In the coming newsletters we hope to include a write up from a different Group each time with a couple of photos telling us about the things that are happening in their Group. So be warned it could be your Group that is next - we'll let you know.

We are still **DESPERATELY** on the hunt for a Zone Scout and Zone Venturer Leaders. It is critical that we fill these roles ASAP to assist the new leaders coming through and the Groups that need some support. It doesn't have to be just one person so if you know of someone you consider suitable for the position please contact either myself or Kevin to discuss the requirements.

I wish to invite you please to call either myself or Kevin McRae for assistance or simply to talk. We do value your ideas.

Keas celebrated the Kea 30th Birthday at the West Taieri Scout Hall on 31st October with 121 Keas from all over the Zone, this made it the biggest turnout of Keas we have had in a long time. We also had Keas from Balclutha and Oamaru present. The weather was great and all the Keas had smiles on their faces as they made their way around the party themed activities, some of the bases included face painting, pass the parcel, tractor rides, making goody bags and party hats, find Koa Kea in the hay, musical chairs.

Our special guest was Ena Leckie who was the Area Kea Leader 30 years ago and who started the first Kea club in Dunedin at Wakari. After talking to the Keas she then cut the birthday cake with a Kea from Wakari, then everyone had afternoon tea. As the keas left to go home they got the loot for their goody bags and headed off home very tired and happy.

Thank you to the Keas that brought a can along for the Foodbank. We collected over 100 cans and took them to the Presbyterian Support Foodbank who were very grateful.

Thank you to the following for their help:
Crew Otago Rovers, Ruth, Christina, Jeff Stewart, Peter Morrison, Ena Leckie, Wayne, Sandra, Cynthea and Cadburys.

Well it's hard to believe it's the end of the year already. I hope all Clubs are well and truly into the new award system by now with the addition of the new badges. I have been hearing a lot of good feedback about the new awards which is great to hear.

Thank you to all the Kea Leaders for your work during the year and I look forward to working with you all next year.

I hope you and your Families have a great Christmas and a well deserved break over the holidays.

Sue Smith—Zone Kea Leader



Competition Time

We are looking for a new name for our newsletter - it currently sounds like the 6 o'clock news. The reward is yet to be decided but the winner gets the kudos for renaming the newsletter.



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A WORD FROM THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

December 5th is International Volunteer Day and I take this opportunity to thank you all for the wonderful work, the great commitment and the level of enthusiasm you give to promoting the principles of SCOUTS in your groups and zones.

We can never underestimate the amount of goodwill you provide in delivering a fun, adventurous programme to the youth of New Zealand. Your efforts continue the SCOUTS tradition of developing good citizens for New Zealand.

There are many, many reasons why our Leaders are part of this movement and what motivates one person is not the same that motivates another. There are also many, many challenges that face us as we try to our best. But I think we can all agree that when an adult approaches you and says thanks for being their Kea, Cub, Scout or Venturer Leader when they were younger, the feeling of satisfaction and pride makes it all worthwhile.

It is very easy for us to take our Leaders for granted but please remember we know that it is you - whether you are a Leader, on a committee or a parent helper that makes SCOUTS the success it is.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our leaders and helpers, youth and their families a very merry Christmas and a great New Year. Stay safe over the holidays and we will see you for the great things happening in SCOUTS in 2010.

Yours in Scouting

Kevin McRae

Regional Development Manager

TRAINING

On Thursday 3rd November we ran a new Section Organisation night which replaces the old Tools for the Job module. There were about 12 Leaders and PALs there.

The SAPD Course at Mosgiel was a roaring success for all 24 Leaders involved. Please read a report by Michelle van Rens, Cub Leader from Andersons Bay below.

Training will start again in March 2010 and we hope you will make every endeavour to take advantage of our ongoing program.

Have a great Christmas break and we will look forward to major advances in SCOUTS Coastal Otago in 2010.

Peter Marr - Zone Training Leader

SAPD8

The drop was 100 feet. I took one step and then another. My breath was harsh, I felt cold but sweat dripped down my forehead. My heart was pounding in my ears. Hanging from ropes on a vertical face was not my idea of happiness, I wanted to vomit, my legs and arms shook, my tongue felt like an old shoe, God, I was so scared!

"Michelle, Michelle", a voice on the head set broke through the impenetrable fear of a 16 yr old. I looked up to see the man behind the voice hanging half over the ledge. Wow, he did it so easily!

"Just keep looking at the face or at me, you are doing it. Don't stop now".

"Yer," I said to myself, "I'm doing it."

"You can do it, Michelle".

"Yer, I can do it!" And I did! All 100 feet! Yahoo! Way to go! The bottom was better than the top, the adrenaline outstanding. I was hooked.

So what now, time has moved on since I was 16 yrs old. Well, I am part of a movement called Scouting. We challenge the youth to look beyond their square box and achieve things they never thought they could possibly do. Now I am that voice on the top of the cliff face, challenging life's limits. We give our time and our knowledge. But with the giving we also receive. With the challenging we also need to challenge ourselves, and I don't just mean managing the youth pushing the boundaries.

So, here is the honesty test. When did you last challenge yourself?

When did you last put yourself in their shoes? Well, the November 2009 SAPD course was my latest challenge, and boy the adrenaline rush at the end of those three days! Yahoo x 3!

So, what is SAPD - well it stands for Scouts Advanced Personal Development. The awesome support crew were Stuart Fleming, Nicki Flett, Bridget Smith and Peter Marr. They led us, coached us, patted our hands, handed out the tissues, kicked our butts and got us up off the floor when we threw paddies. We were set tasks and we achieved them. We learnt about ourselves and the people we worked with. Everyone of us hung way out of our comfort zone, and we lived! We grew (not just because of the great baking!)

So what do you want to know about the course?

Will it be comfortable and easy? No.

Will it challenge you? Yes.

Will it motivate you? Yes.

Will you meet awesome people? Yes.

Will you do things you have never done before? Yes.

Would I do it again? Well, I'm still abseiling.

Twenty four Scout Leaders honestly earned those beads and I am proud to stand up and be counted among those at the November 2009 SAPD leadership training course.

Honesty check: what will you do for 2010? Challenge life's limits - one step, then another...

Michelle van Rens

**From Your Zone
Cub Leaders
Wayne Smith and
Russell Reynolds**

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This term has been really busy for the cub section with lots of packs going camping and doing a lot of outdoor activities. I have visited West Taieri rafting camp at Outram Glen which they hold every year. There were many different rafts made. I also visited Mosgiel's camp at Waiora and Fairfield Group camp at Berwick. Andersons Bay went on a fishing trip on their bikes to Vauxhall. I hear that Macandrew Bay, Opoho and Tainui are planning to go camping in the next two weeks and West Taieri are running their Group trolley derby at Outram.

I have been helping the new Cub Leaders at Opoho each week for the last 5 weeks.

Last week we had a big pack raid on Andy Bay Cubs. 8 Groups took part and all cubs that went took newspaper rolled up into small balls. Thanks to all the Leaders who brought their cubs along as all the cubs had a great time. We had a Cub Leaders meeting on the 20th November to

talk about next year and to see what you as leaders wanted from the Zone.

We are hoping to send out the notes from the meeting and a list of dates for activities planned for next year as we want to have all cubs turning up so they can complete their award scheme and we want the Leaders to get together to support each other. And also have a lot of fun.

We are planning a Leaders get together once a term so we can help and support all the Cub Leaders in the Zone as we would like all packs working together.

Do not forget Founders Weekend as this will be our first camp for the year.

We would like to thank all the Cub Leaders for their support during the year.

And we would like to wish you a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

HANDY CONTACTS

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Coastal Otago Zone Leader	Sandra Thompson	489 8615	four.thoms@xtra.co.nz
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Coastal Otago Zone Support Office Manager	Eckhard Marthen	477 6644	admin@scoutingotago.org.nz
Coastal Otago Zone Training Leader	Peter Marr	467 9944	lvconstruction@xtra.co.nz
Acting Zone Kea Leader	Sue Smith	455 0144	thebigsmiths@hotmail.com
Zone Cub Leader	Wayne Smith	455 0144	thebigsmiths@hotmail.com
Assistant Zone Cub Leader	Russell Reynolds	488 3263	rcreynolds@paradise.net.nz
Zone Scout Leader	vacant		
Assistant Zone Scout Leader	Mark Kelly	476 1711	mark.kelly@otago.ac.nz
Zone Venturer Leader	vacant		
Regional Venturer Leader	Mark Godsiff	03 418 3658	nmgodsiff@callsouth.net.nz
Regional Rover Leader	Herman Veltman	453 5148	veltman@xtra.co.nz
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Coastal Otago Zone Water Activities Advisor	vacant		
Central/Lakes Acting Zone Leader	Hec Browett	487 6726	hec@scoutingotago.org.nz
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