



1st Blackwood Scout Group Newsletter

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December 2015

Seasons Greetings from Blackwood Scout Group!

Welcome all to the end of another action-packed year with the Blackwood Scout Group. We have achieved a great deal since the last newsletter and much of this will be covered in the articles from each section. I wish to congratulate Jason Timberlake (Bagheera—Tuesday Cubs) who completed his Advanced Leadership training during this year and was presented with his Woodbeads and Gilwell scarf. Congratulations too to Jenny Pearce (Akela—Thursday Cubs) for recently receiving her 25-year Service award. Please congratulate Jenny on her outstanding commitment when you next see her.

Thanks also to our other Leaders who have been working hard on their training and making significant inroads as a group. This diligence makes a huge difference in how we deliver the programs for our youth members and the results of this are seen in the popularity of our Group and the achievements of our youth members.

Congratulations also to FOUR of our adult members who were recognised with a Special Service Award by Scouts Australia on World Scout Day in August. These awards, along with a Queens Scout Award for Venturer Rohan Wheaton (well done Rohan!), were presented at the Branch Annual Awards Ceremony at Titanium Arena in October.

Our youth numbers in each section are still extremely healthy and we have a very high level of linking with members progressing through each age section. Our fastest growing section is our Venturer Unit which is truly bulging at the seams. We desperately need Leaders for this section to be able to maintain the high standard of program being run. Please consider if you could help us out – it's not as daunting as it may seem and can be hugely rewarding. We have two recently "booted" Venturers signing up as Scout and Joey Leaders for Blackwood which is great news – welcome back (like you ever left...) Rachael T and Matt M. As well as Venturer Leaders, we still need Leaders in our Joey and Cub sections. Give me a call if you want to know more or think you could help.

Several of our Bleden Venturers are in the process of getting a new Rover Crew off the ground. Whilst Rover Crews are technically not affiliated with any particular Scout Group, it's nice to know the Blackwood spirit is living on well beyond the youth involvement.

Pinnacle events have been occurring, or are on the horizon, for each section starting with the 25th Jubilee Hoporee for Joey Scouts which was in November. Hundreds of Joeys from all over the State attended this event along with most of our Mob at Woodhouse. January will see 41 Blackwood members attend the National Jamboree at Catteract Park south of Sydney for 12 days and at the same time six of our Venturers will be jetting off to the Inferno Venture based in Rotorua, New Zealand. Lastly, just to top it all off, Cub Scouts are celebrating their Centenary next year with a myriad of activities and events currently under-going planning.

Thanks again to all of our Leaders, office holders, committee members and parent helpers who are making all of this happen. Please continue to support our fundraising efforts and Group endeavors and we will continue to put smiles on kids faces!

Wishing you all the best for a happy and safe Christmas and New Year!

Cheers ~ Craig Johnston, Group Leader (0411 555 334)

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Important Events

AJ2016

3-13 January 2016

Founder's Day

22 February 2016

Roonka Family Camp

11-14 March 2016

Jamboree on the Trail

14 May 2016

Cub Leader Expo

3 July 2016

National Cub Campfire

30 July 2016

SA Centenary Cuboree

30 Sept—3 October 2016

Joeys celebrate their Silver Jubilee

Blackwood Joeys have had a busy and varied time in recent months - helping to celebrate our 25th birthday! 2015 marked the milestone of 25 years of Joeys in Australia. During the year, Joeys completed the Silver Jubilee Challenge and were rewarded with a collectors' blanket badge. We had to complete 5 challenges - hold a party, a campfire, a camp, do service, and an adventure activity. We had our party in July (which was the month of the actual birthday) donated lots of gear to Ferret Rescue, went on a bike ride in Belair National Park and undertook Jamboree on the Trail, and completed some speed camping and "normal" camping!



In term 4 we had 11 Joeys, with 4 new ones invested, and 4 linked up to Cubs this term - we wish Jay, Benjy, Sully and Georgia all the best in their scouting life as they move on. Congratulations to Georgia who achieved her Promise Challenge Badge and inspired a few others to try and do theirs before going up to Cubs. Welcome to Jack, Zoe, Alex and Austin - I hope they enjoy their time in Joeys!

We had a messy time doing some art in the dark, and then lots of chaos with a paper plane competition, with some nifty made up versions from the Joeys doing better than the dads' versions! We steadily completed the Environment Challenge badge; the Joeys made a bird feeder out of natural materials (pine cones) and helped the Friends of Blackwood Forest to plant trees. Finally all the Joeys learned about recycling and had then achieved their badges!

The Gang Show came to visit, with some of our own Group involved from the Russell family and we danced and played games...so much was the dancing enjoyed that when we had our Disco the following week we were right into it and did lots of action dancing! The Joeys especially seemed to love the Star Trek song and limbo dancing and yes, Gangnam Style is still a huge hit! We ended Term 3 by going to Bounce, and all had a great time trampolining - even a parent or two had a bounce!

In Term 4 the Joeys ran a "coaching clinic" of ball games, with Joeys teaching other Joeys games and rules. They also enjoyed some acting, doing a 'first aid adventure', treating 'snake bite' and 'burns' along the way. We finished the term by going to visit Somerton Surf Life Saving Club to learn about beach safety, and we decorated the truck that was used for our float in the Blackwood Christmas Parade.

Of course, the big event for the year was the Silver Jubilee Hoporee at the end of November. This was a Branch event, with Mobs participating from all over the State for a weekend of camping, fun, activities and new friendships with a theme of "Time to Shine". It was the Joey version of a Jamboree, and only happens every 2 years, so is a very big event with much preparation, build up and anticipation all year! Our Joeys all had a great time, with many fun and adventurous activities to be had. It was also great to be able to meet and get to know the Joey parents that attended. Everyone returned from the weekend tired and happy!

Adrienne Beverley (Emu) ~ Joey Scout Leader

Tuesday Cubs meeting the challenge



Once again Tuesday Cubs have been engaged in a variety of fun and engaging activities! In Term 3 we visited the Guide Dogs Discovery Centre, did first aid on 'Zombies', and hiked up Brown Hill. A highlight for the term was the Pinewood Derby Challenge, where Cubs got creative with a block of wood and some special wheels to compete against Belair Cubs. There were some interesting and innovative designs, and the competition was fierce and a lot of fun.

In Term 4 we had a 'Crazy Japanese Game Show' night, went fishing, made bush shelters in Blackwood Forest and hiked down Mt Lofty at sunset. We also had our second Pack Holiday for the year—this time an 'Incredibles' camp at Woodhouse combined with JOTA/JOTI and joining forces with Hallett Cove Cubs.



Congratulations to our four Tuesday Cubs who worked hard to earn the highest achievement a Cub Scout can be awarded: The Grey Wolf Award. Cubs have to be determined and motivated to complete all the Grey Wolf requirements, and only around 5% of Cubs in SA achieve it. Olivia G, Lauren C, Harrison C and Andrew B were all presented with their awards in Term 4. Well done to all of you!

Sadly we this year we bade farewell to leaders Dan (Baloo), who has moved interstate, and Lumai (Raksha), who is happily expecting an addition to the family. Thank you both for your dedicated and enthusiastic service—you will be missed! This also means we do need more leaders for the Tuesday Cub Pack to continue to maintain a quality program—if you would like to help provide awesome experiences for children then please get in touch!

Lara Cameron-Smith (Akela) ~ Cub Scout Leader



Thursday Cubs having a great time

Thursday Cubs and the Scout Troop joined forces to have a combined camp at Roonka. The Cubs and Scouts had a great time and many of them were able to go gliding at the Armstrong Air Activities Centre.



The Cubs were busy with boomerang work in the latter part of the year. We had a great science night where we experimented with red cabbage to test for acids and finished the night with “exploding film canisters”. One of the younger cubs was heard to say, “What is film?”. Maybe we might have to have a night about “The Olden Days”!

We combined learning with games and fun and we were able to pass 6 Boomerang tests: knotting, cub traditions, law and promise, fitness, handicraft, and mapping.

This has resulted in Bronze boomerangs to Lachlan, Mick, Hope, Ivy, Jake, Nick, Oscar, Sophie, Zac C, Lily, and Sam. Silver Boomerangs were presented to Harrison, John, Chris, Brian, Brock, Daniel, Jack, Ethan and Abi, with Minty very close to getting hers. The highest boomerang is the Gold one, which was awarded to Tom, with Amber and Emily very close to getting theirs.

Euan and Simeon are currently linking from Joeys, and Zac has recently joined his two sisters with us at Cubs. This means our Pack had 29 members at the end of the year. Cubs linking to Scouts in Term 1 next year will be John, Jack, Tom, Nathaniel, Amber, Brian, Chris and Emily.

Congratulations to our new Seconds too: Daniel, Sophie, Ethan, Harrison, Nick, Brock, Lachlan and Jake. We look forward to seeing what you can accomplish in your leadership role.

Our Term 4 program made use of the warmer weather and included such things as a bike hike in Belair Park, walk around Blackwood, and of course the Beachouse lock-in in November.



Continued thanks to the Thursday leaders who support me to make such a difference to the kids’ experience at Cubs.

Jenny Pearce (Akela)

Scouts—Survivor Ngarkat

On a sunny weekend in September, 27 brave Blackwood Scouts participated in “Survivor Ngarkat”, deep in the Ngarkat Conservation Park 2hrs drive from Adelaide and 10 km from any civilisation on a 4wd track. There were five teams – ‘The Horizon’, ‘Jabiru’, ‘#<3 Frozen 4ever’, ‘Fire Gangsta\$’ and ‘The feral lama-corns of Ngarkat’. The Survivors had to do many team and individual challenges to gain a seat in the immunity chair or get an icy cold can each for the team. Some of the challenges included ‘Whistle for your breakfast’ (after eating dry Weetbix) and the ‘Tough guy and gal Challenge’ where Lucas, Aron and Bryden did over 200 sit-ups and Seb, Angus, Rose and Trinity got over 120. There was the infamous ‘Yuk Food Challenge’ and ‘Kim’s Game’ plus a couple of challenges which involved popping a balloon in various ways and spitting a dummy.



Over the weekend we cooked bread in the camp oven, learnt how to find water, made fire without matches, slept under a homemade shelter and make rope with toilet paper (just in case we need to escape a jail cell). We also had a hearty “backwoods” dinner cooked on the fire in alfoil. All this helped the Scouts to gain their Bushcraft badge. The Girls in ‘The Horizon’ won the overall team and Aron outshone everyone else to win the title of ‘Ultimate Survivor’.



Thanks to a team of fabulous leaders and parents, and a bunch of fun loving Scouts we all had a fabulous weekend in the bush.

Chris Madeley ~ Scout Leader



AJ2016—Chris' Survival Tips

AJ2016 will have 8300 Scouts and 2700 Leaders from all over Australia including small numbers of Scouts and leaders from many different countries throughout the world. After attending many Jamborees with Scouts, here are my hot tips to make the Jamboree a better experience for all!

A good nights sleep before getting on the bus. Once the Scouts get off the bus after a bad nights sleep it's all go! They must help set up camp in the heat, get familiar with the site and attend the opening ceremony which will finish late on the first day. The next morning the activities start for 10 days and don't stop.

Pack your own bags (with Mum's help). That way Mum won't get the blame for not packing something and you will be able to find stuff in the dark!

Your day pack goes with you on the bus with you with goodies to help you through the trip.

Take a watch: Patrol leaders and assistant patrol leaders especially. You will have times to be at places or miss out. It is the patrol leader's responsibility to make that happen.

Have a comfortable bed and pillow. A good self-inflating mat, not a closed cell foam hike mat. The pillow can go on the bus and the mat can go in the straps on the bag if it doesn't fit inside, but must be named.

Take an inner sheet – a bed sheet stitched on one side and bottom. If it is a warm night you can just sleep in that and not get bitten by mosquitos.

Learn how to wash your clothes – you will need to hand wash some clothes especially if you want to wear your favourite shirt or shorts often.

The gear list is a guide – you can take more if you like as long as it fits in the bag. One pair of jocks per day won't take up much space! You must have collared shirts, you will be spending 10 days in the sun. A collar will stop the risk of a burnt neck.

You will need a raincoat – it often rains in summer in NSW and when it does it is heavy rain.

Deodorant – no one wants to smell your smelly armpits. It must be roll on deodorant though, spray on deodorant can cause problems for other people.

Bug repellent – there are lots of bugs at Cataract Park. Take a roll-on. "OFF" comes in a pump spray which is ok.

Label everything with either your name or initials and 'A207'. This includes the shampoo bottle. If your gear gets left somewhere it will come back eventually. It will also come back if it ends up in someone else's bag for the trip home.

Bring a spare pair of shoes/ wet boots to get wet and muddy for Challenge Valley and water activities. No shoes – no play (even leaders, I found out).

Bring a set of old clothes which can get muddy or dirty and can be left in the bin in NSW because they will never be the same again!

Drink lots. Take an extra water bottle just in case. It can be very hot and humid at Cataract Park.

Wash your hands with soap...a lot. Soap will keep the bugs away and stop you getting diarrhoea which will spoil the Jamboree for you and the whole troop.

Rest – You don't have to do everything. Sometimes chilling in the tent or crashing early will help you get through and recharge.

Put something on your bag so that you can find it - 42 bags all the same in a pile when you get off the bus might take a bit of time to sort. A ribbon on the handle might help.

Group Support Committee

Our Group is strong and vibrant, and part of what is required to remain that way is to provide a strong support base to all the Sections through the GSC. As our youth cycle through the Group so do our adult helpers, and we need to continually refresh.

The Group Support Committee needs more members in 2016!

If you can spare about 2 hours per month for a meeting, plus other time if you take on responsibilities, please contact me ASAP.

Many thanks to the families and Leaders who assisted at our Working Bee in October. We need the help of all our families to keep our hall and property in the best condition possible for our youth members.

Planning for our hall renovations are well under way—stay tuned for more news next year after AJ2016!

Thank you to all the Committee Members in 2015 for helping to support our strong and vibrant Scout Group!

Mark van Gorp
~ GSC Chairperson

Craig J	Group Leader
Kym B	Assistant Group Leader
Mark vG	Chairperson
Lee D	Secretary/Building upgrade Subcommittee Convenor
Toni P	Treasurer/ Membership Officer
Matthew K	Quartermaster
David C	Quartermaster
Craig C	Quartermaster / Maintenance Officer
Aaron O	Grants Officer
Tim M	Fundraising Chair
Darren R	Bottleyard Coordinator
Emma D	Cleaning Coordinator
Fiona L	Committee Member
Kerry B	Committee Member
Ken W	Committee Member



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We'd love to see your scouting activity photos on our Facebook page. No tagging, please.

Newsletter feedback and contributions welcome!
Email: lara.c_smith@internode.on.net

1st Blackwood Scout Group

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Photo Gallery—Joey Silver Jubilee Hoporee 2015

