



## **Sunnynook Scout Group Newsletter Term 3 – 2015**



### **LEADERS' REPORT**

#### **Group Leader – Paul Davey**

Well it's hard to believe that we are half way through the year - so much has been happening at the Sunnynook Scout Group.

Firstly my thanks go to our dedicated leaders who provide the program for our young people to enjoy, We have gained some new faces in the Kea section - Jaimie, Louise & Ellie - as we opened our second Kea Club. Moyra joined the Cub section. Sadly we are losing two leaders in the coming month with Elaine and Christie moving to Warkworth. We thank them for their hard work and dedication to the group and wish them all the very best for the future.

By now you should all be able to track or have communication with us via the Online Scout Manager (OSM). My thanks go to Brendan & Chrissie Patterson for setting this up and driving it on behalf of the group. I know the Cub and Scout section are using it fully - it's a great tool for all of us. If you have any questions on this please contact me.

Over the first half of the year I have spent a lot of time with the sections getting to know them and making sure that they have the resources and leaders to deliver what we all want for the youth. During this time the group has grown by over 100%, which is amazing, and thanks go to all those who contributed to recruiting new members.

The committee are working away at many issues in the group and my thanks to them for all their hard work also. Darin Hutcheson has stepped into the role of Group Chairman and has certainly taken the job in hand progressing the works at the den with Hugh, building a wall/cupboard, another wall up the stairs to make the den safer and more user friendly. The heat pumps have been a great addition to the den and the Kea sleep over was much more comfortable. I am sure that you will see more progress over the coming months.

Fundraising is always hard we recently completed the Yellow book delivery and this will boost the group funds. We are also trying to make sure the den can be hired out to groups during the week days.

Delivering a fun and dynamic program is what will keep the young people coming back, and with so many other activities on offer we have to stay relevant, fresh, dynamic and exciting but above all fun.

#### **Committee Chairperson – Darin Hutcheson**

I'm the newly appointed Chair of the Committee. I've got 2 kids – Ella and Matthew – who are both loving Cubs.

We have a small but passionate committee who are enthusiastic about growing the group and improving the facilities. The most significant development of term 2 has been the installation of the heat pumps – these were a big purchase, but will keep the hall nice and warm for years to come. We have nearly finished construction of a storage area, installed a white board and made the stairs safe.

In term 3 we will be finishing the current building work. We will then be building a cage around the outdoor heat pump units. We intend to apply for grants to replace the chairs, tables and lifejackets. We will also be installing a trophy cabinet, and dealing with the guttering and drains up the back.

The role of the committee is to support the leaders and to provide the facilities and equipment that they need. This allows the leaders to focus on engaging with the kids. You can contact me on 021 487 555, or [darin.hutcheson@gmail.com](mailto:darin.hutcheson@gmail.com), if you want to discuss any aspect of the facilities, or can help out in some way.

## KEAS' REPORT

### Kea Leader – Helen McDermott

Keas are coming along well and are still actively looking for new members! Some of our Keas will be transitioning up to cubs later in the year.

#### Recent events

##### Den Sleepover

We had 22 Keas attend, and from all reports they had a great time.



##### Campfire

We had a fun time with our combined campfire with the Cubs



#### Upcoming events to look forward to:

##### Week one of August

Keas will be learning some basic cooking when we make damper and toast marshmallows.

##### Kelly Tarltons Sleep over

7/8 August, I do not know who is more excited, the Keas or the leaders.....

##### Weeks two and three of August

Keas will be making puppets one week and the next week will be putting on a puppet show for their audience which we will be inviting their friends and families to attend.

## CUBS' REPORT

### Cub Leaders – Moyra Black & Nigel Boyce

Welcome back to the new term to all our Sunnynook Cubs and their families. We hope the school holidays have left you refreshed and re-energised for a great Term 3.

This term, for our weekly meetings, we plan to get outdoors and active a little more, despite the winter weather while we also learn more about our local and wider community and those in need around us. Over the upcoming weeks, some of our activities will include exploring the area around our Den, tin-foil cooking on fires, a Burma trail, a collection for charity, and a beach clean-up. We will also encourage community spirit through combined activities with other Scouts, by inviting the Sunnynook Keas to join in a combined Kea and Cub night, and a trip to Mayfield Cubs in Glenfield for a proper outdoor Campfire and a visit to see their glow worms. We also hope to visit a nearby retirement village, so the Cubs can learn about the history of our community from a previous generation.

In addition to our regular Wednesday meetings, we also have a couple of great weekend activities coming up this term, with our sleep-over at Kelly Tarlton's on August 22nd, and the chance to join in the annual Mud Rush course at Long Bay Primary School on September 12th or 13th.

We would like to add a reminder to make sure the Cubs come along each Wednesday with adequate shoes and warm clothes in these cold winter months. If an outdoor activity is planned, wet weather gear may also be needed, but you will be advised about this via email in the week before the outing.

Finally, we would also like to take this opportunity to extend an open invitation to any year 4-6 (or late Year 3) students who may be interested in joining us. If you have friends or family who are interested in Cubs, please bring them along, as we are always happy to welcome new members!



*Rubbish Bag raincoats made as part of our Emergency Preparedness night*

## SCOUTS' REPORT

### Scout Leader – John Irving

We have 2 people in Auckland Gang Show, Brendan (Scout Leader) & Kalib (Scout APL). The Sunnynook group intend to attend along with the past members of the North Shore Gang Show on Friday 4 September to show our support. Your section leader will let you know the details and how to book tickets.

We had a sleepover at the den prior to ANZAC 2015 dawn service. Then waking up very early & heading over to the Auckland War Memorial Museum to see the servicemen & women. Afterwards we headed to Browns Bay for the morning service with Keas & Cubs, and we marched to the cenotaph. Very proud of the turnout that day, well done all. There were a few tired bodies that day.

We had our Scout families come along for a small walk along the Karangahake Gorge on 30th May. 12kms! This is to see how our new scouts go with walking distances in preparation for tramping to campsites & huts etc.

First week back we did a Mythbuster style rope challenge using duct tape & seeing if we could copy the Mythbuster team. We successfully pulled other bodies with the "rope," tried knotting the tape, unsuccessfully but had fun never the less.

On the second night back we had our PL (Patrol leaders) go through with the scouts how to orientate maps, then, find some sites on the map. Also looking to see if they wanted to tramp to anywhere on the maps, planning these events next term.

We are doing Community service around the park 3rd August. Last time we did this we filled 3 black bags in the hour walkabout!

31<sup>st</sup> of August is a night of hanging around & off the walls at Birkenhead Leisure Rock Climbing. We are also having Guest speaker Noel Watson who rowed the Atlantic will be telling us about his experiences on the 14th September.

Coast to Coast with full tramping packs is being planned, date to be advised. Walking from Onehunga (Manukau Harbour) through Royal Oak, One Tree Hill, Epsom, Newmarket, Auckland Domain, Auckland City Centre to Princes wharf (Waitemata Harbour). About 16km's!

Last night of the term our Scouts are choosing to do either Lazerforce or Ten Pin Bowling, their choice!! We are inviting our parents to come along & enjoy the activity with us.

Saturday 26th September, the start of the school holidays, we are tramping to Waitawheta hut in the Coromandel Ranges, crossing one river 7 times, 3 through the water & rocks, the rest over bridges. The Scouts will be carrying their own food, water & clothing. Spending the night then tramping out.

We are using the OSM to see who is available for coming up activities; it really does make our work easier.

Some of the Scouts are planning on going to the 21st NZ Jamboree 2016/2017. 10 days happening in & around Marlborough, top of the South Island! Lots of fundraising to cover the costs for this!

## **VENTURERS' REPORT**

### **Venturer Leader – Nigel Boyce**

At the end of last term we farewelled Tannen Bonneau, a member who had been at Sunnynook all the way through from Cubs. That evening was spent with some fun and games at Xtreme Entertainment Target Road where he gave us lots of laughs with his bowling style and driving on the Bumper car track, followed by a meal at the local Indian restaurant. Tannen eventually succeeded in achieving his gold Venturer award and this was presented to him at the end of his last evening with us. He is now a member of the Bays Rover Crew so hopefully we'll see him about from time to time at zone events.

This term we have put together a good programme where we all have agreed that we are going to finish off our current award scheme level that we are working on. So there are some reasonable outdoor activities planned.

We've even agreed that we need to get on and do some fund raising, but yet to finalise what we are going to do.

Our Venturers are the smallest group in the Sunnynook Scout Group totalling only 4 members currently. I've put together an email to formally invite scouts from Mayfield and Beach Haven to join us at Sunnynook Venturers. Let's hope that we may be able to increase our membership.

## GENERAL NEWS

### **Help us hire out the Hall!**

Last year we made around \$14,000 from hiring out the Hall to community groups. A few of them have left this year, so our income has reduced as a result. Our hall is generally unused during the day, and is a large, fairly robust space.

If you or your kids are involved in any community groups that need a new home, and they hold their meetings during the day, or even after school, then please let them know about our hall. You can find all the details on [sunnynook.org.nz](http://sunnynook.org.nz). Note that we aren't wanting to steal tenants from the Sunnynook Community Centre – other places might be fair game though.

The more we can hire it out during the day, the less other fundraising we need to do. We would need to have a lot of sausage sizzles to earn \$14k! Also, we will spend any surplus income on improving the hall and equipment.

### **Speak up**

The group is run by some hard-working volunteers who are trying their best to deliver the Scouting programme to the members. However, we have grown a lot, and had a lot of change recently, so won't always be perfect. If there is something bugging you, then let one of the leaders or committee members know about it. We welcome your ideas on how to improve things.