



1st Hawthorn

SCOUTS

at Scotch College

1st Hawthorn Scotch College Scout Group
Annual General Meeting: 24th February, 2006

Mr Chris Taylor: Group Leaders Report

Welcome to another year of Scouting at Scotch. The troop has started well and there are lots of exciting events planned for the months ahead. I will start by giving a brief outline as to the past years activities.

The Leadership has changed slightly in that Ms Colleen Mc Hugh has left Scotch and Mr Tim Byrnes is in the United Kingdom on a teacher exchange. We are very pleased to have a new member of staff, Mr Malcolm Pacey joining us in Scouts this year. Our Scout Leader is Mrs Narelle Sheezel, with Assistant Scout Leaders, Mrs Anna Chambers, Mr John Kuzma and Mr Andrew Garde, making up the rest of the team. The Caretaker at our Healesville Scout Camp is Mr Steve Wilson.

The troop hike last year had to be cancelled at the last minute because of the bushfires at Wilson's Promontory. The main camp at Healesville in September was excellent, and the boys enjoyed the experience.

The fire equipment at Elliott Lodge was completed, and extra tanks put in to double the water storage capacity. Each building is now protected for at least two hours with continual water spray over the roof and walls. As most fire-fronts pass through in ten to twenty minutes, this is excellent protection.

The Swap Shop assisted us in purchasing twelve hike tents which the boys can use. We now have a full set of tents and trangi cooking stoves. This year we plan to purchase at least two new large patrol tents and start replacing our old very heavy ex-Vietnam Army tents. We also have budget for a fitness trail to be constructed at the Camp.

The Scout Hall came back to us after the Drama Department moved into their new home. This has allowed us to have the floors sanded and polished, a new Scout leader's office to be constructed, and the kitchen totally refurbished. Glass show cases were constructed and fitted to the walls, so that each patrol would have a personal area to display their achievements. We had a series of flag poles erected to give a focus for the meetings. The Australian flag is central with the troop, venturer and rover flags on either side. The year ended with the Patrol leaders training camp in the last week of December. The boys worked hard and Mrs Sheezel put them through their paces to ready them for this year.

The Rover Den has had a major refurbishment with the entire floor space being opened up. We purchased a billiard table which flips into an air hockey table, a vacuum cleaner, and a 15 cubic refrigerator was added to the kitchen. The crew has also been kitted out with a complete range of cutlery, plates and BBQ cooking equipment. The Rover Crew is functioning well with approximately fourteen members. They have supported the troop throughout the year as well as participated in many District events as well as follow their own programme.

The Venturer Unit has a strong Leadership structure with Mr Robert Evans as Venturer Leader and his partner Ms Michelle Simberg, Mr Andrew Mc Keon all working at District level as instructors. We also have Mr Philip Schneider as part of the Assistant Venturer leadership team. The Unit have been very active, and this weekend are taking part in a District hike. We have two boys very close to being awarded their QueensScout ; Jonathan Goldsmith and Lachlan Fraser.