



The Grand Howl

"Zone 4" Cub Leader Newsletter

Number 07/01, 8 February 2007

Hi everyone,

This is the first edition of the Grand Howl for 2007, and the first ever "Zone4" Cub Leader Newsletter!

For those who aren't familiar with the Grand Howl, it's a Newsletter I use to communicate with Cub Leaders on a regular basis (at least each term), to remind you of any upcoming events, and to pass on any information about Regional or National events.

It's also your opportunity to let other Leaders know of anything that has worked well for you, any programme tips, ideas for activities etc, so please send these thoughts and ideas to me at this email address, and I'll ensure they are shared.

Zoning In

Hopefully we'll get a better name than "Zone 4" soon (see "Name the Zone" below), but in the meantime, that's us. But who is us - who makes up the Cub section in the Zone? We have the following eleven Cub Packs in the Zone:

Avonhead	Bishopdale Rata	Bishopdale Rimu	Darfield
Gordon	Holmes Park	Hororata	Riccarton
Russley	St Josephs	West Melton	

As Cub Leaders in the new Zone, you are all part of the new Zone Cub Team.

The Collins Dictionary defines a Zone as "*an encircling band*", and if the friendship and mutual support I experienced amongst the former District Cub Team is anything to go by, we will each gain a lot from, and have much to contribute to, our new "band"!

It's All About Me!

For those who don't yet know me, my name is Terry Mitchell, and I was a Cub Leader at Holmes Park for a number of years, then for the past two years I was the District Cub Leader for Scouting Deans. On Monday of this week, I was confirmed as the new Zone Cub Leader (I guess no-one else wanted the job!).

I don't have a "Scouting" or Jungle Book name, the Cubs and other Leaders just call me Terry. When I visit your Pack, treat me like one of the Pack's Cub Leader team for the night (ie allocate me some tasks) rather than as a "guest". I love the opportunity to talk to the Cubs at the opening or other appropriate time in the programme. I enjoy a good laugh, a bit of a song, story-telling and I have an extensive dress-up and costume wardrobe.

My Commitment to You:

Each term I will:

- visit each Pack on one of your normal Cub-nights
- ensure there is at least one Zone-wide Cub event
- visit and/or help at any special events such as camps and outings

Unless other arrangements are made, I will also be the "training mentor" for leaders who haven't completed their training.

My Term One Visit to Your Pack:

In the past I have spent a lot of time trying to coordinate my visits to the eight Packs in the District. I now have eleven Packs to visit, so it will be harder to coordinate things so that everyone's preferences (including mine) are met. Therefore, unless you email me with a specific request by **Wednesday 14 February**, I will allocate nights as best I can, and email out a "diary" of Pack visits in the next few days.

Annual Events:

The annual events that have been a tradition in the Deans District will continue (Swimming Sports, Soccer Tournament, Trolley Derby, Founders Day, Camporee, Six Leader Camp), but I'm also keen to have a unique new event for the new Zone, so any ideas will be gratefully accepted and considered. We will be having a discussion about this at Section-time at the Zone Scouters Council on 20 March.

Module 3 Training - Tools for the Job:

There are a number of new and relatively new Leaders who need to complete the "Tools for the Job" training. I tried to organise something before Christmas, but it became too difficult to coordinate. It is likely that I'll need to run two evenings to cover all those who need to attend the training, and it's likely that they will be run in the next two weeks. I'll be emailing the details of where and when to those who need to know, over the coming weekend.

Programmes:

This term we also roll out the new National Programmes, and I'm pretty impressed with the quality of those programmes. I wish I had access to this resource when I was running a Pack.

Don't forget that you are able to tailor the programmes to suit your Pack and the resources (including the number of Leaders) available to you. You might also like to change the order of some programmes. For example, it makes sense to me to have the "Playing it Safe" night (week 5) before running the "Splash and Dash" night (week 3).

Pack Newsletters:

Most Packs send a Newsletter to families with an outline of the programme for the term, including other important dates and Group activities etc. Please ensure you send (email) me a copy of your Newsletter, so I am aware of any extra activities your Pack is involved in.

Name the Zone / Design the Badge:

I mentioned earlier that we need to come up with a new name for the Zone, and Lorraine Sheppard (Zone Leader for "Zone 4") will shortly be sending out details of a competition where we will be inviting the youth members to contribute their ideas for the new name for the Zone, and to help design our new badge.

Please encourage your Cubs to participate in this challenge - it fits in well with the "My Country" requirements for their Wero badge (see No. 17 on page 76 in the Cub Scout Activity Book).

Special Events in Term One

The following special events are in the Zone calendar for Term One:

- Founders Day (BP's 150th Birthday) - 22 February
- Zone Founders Day Activity - Mud Slide - 24 February
- Zone Scouters Council at Rimu Park - 20 March
- Zone Swimming Sports - 30 March

You will already have received details of the Mud Slide activity, and you will receive details of the other events closer to the time.

Contacting me:

The best way to communicate with me is by email (see my address below), as I generally check my email at least once a day, and I try to reply to my emails within 24 hours (sometimes a delay if I'm out of town for work though). If you ring me, and get my answerphone, please leave a message - that's what the answerphone is for, and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.



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Zone Cub Leader

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