

# Holmes Park Scout Group Newsletter

Issue 2, July 2001

Welcome to our second newsletter, and an extra special welcome to all the new families to our Group since the last newsletter.

As at 30 June (Census day for Scouts), we had 34 Scouts, 21 Cubs and 20 Keas. This is a slight increase on the same time last year, and shows that we are continuing to provide a programme that the children enjoy and want to come back for. We have a great team of leaders, and with your support, this can continue.

## Highlights of last term

### *Group Camp*

Our major group activity for the year. This was very successful, and enjoyed by all. Despite the cold, the weather was fine (except for the last few hours), and this meant all sections could do activities outside as well as inside. Well done to all the scouts who made it up the Vertical Play Pen (see photo).

One of the Cub activities was a decoder trail, and they all managed to crack the code and find all the clues. As well as other activities, the Keas made kites, and enjoyed flying them, until the wind became too cold and strong for them.

And on Saturday night, everyone enjoyed our special guests, Seldom Anygood and Tineke Bootlace. I'm sure we all learned something from the questions they asked. And where did all those prizes go?

The trampolines were also popular with all the sections.



Next year we plan to hold the group camp at the end of the year, to enjoy the warmer weather. We'll keep you posted on that later.

See our web page at <http://go.to/holmespark>

## ***Civil Defence Exercise***

Thank you to those that took part in this worthwhile activity. Unfortunately, due to a breakdown in communication somewhere along the line, the school we were allocated to was no longer part of the exercise. However, we found somewhere else to participate, and took part there. And we got morning tea too.

## **Things to look forward to this term**

All sections have prepared their programmes for the coming term, and they look great.

The Scouts are doing preparation for the annual Campers Cup competition in September. This is where patrols from scout groups around our district get together for a weekend, and get marked on various aspects of camping. This is a great practice for Jamboree at the end of the year.

Five of our Scouts have just attended a Cossgrove Course, which is held to teach the older Scouts leadership skills.

The theme for Cubs this term is “Light”, and they will be working on their Scientist badge. The annual Deans District Cub Soccer Tournament is on again in August, which our Cubs plan to show off their skills at.

The Keas will be looking at Animals, and Families this term, and hope to have a Family Fun night.

And the highlight for many at the end of the term will be our very own

### **“Holmes Park Gang Show”**

All sections will be involved, and it will be an event not to be missed, so keep the night of Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September free. More details will come later.

## **Congratulations!!**

To **Kirk Fleming**, who has completed his Chief Scout Award. This is the highest award you can earn as a Scout, and is the result of several years of work and service, as well as an interview with the District Commissioner. Kirk was presented with his Award on 25<sup>th</sup> July. You can see the Chief Scout Award plaque hanging near the flag.

## **IMPORTANT**

### **Activity Permission slips**

These are the forms that are sent home with the notice about an upcoming activity with your child’s section, which involves being away from the den. It is very important that these are completed and signed and returned to the Section Leader, **by the return date stated on the notice**. If we do not receive this permission slip from you, your child cannot attend the activity. These slips are a requirement of the Scout Association, and its safety policies.

### **Parents’ Consent and Information Form**

This is a form that you will have received when your child started in our Group, and also when they move up a section. It is also very important that this form is completed and returned to the Section Leader, before your child is invested. It gives us important information about your child, and also tells us that you give your consent for their involvement in Scouting. If you still have this form sitting at home, please complete it and return it to your child’s Section Leader.

### **Our Great Team of Leaders**

And speaking of Leaders, I thought now would be a good time to introduce our leaders to you. We know who our own child’s section leaders are, but do we know who the others are?

## **Scouts**

John Saywell  
George Pearce  
Peter Fleming  
Assisted by Joanne Clemens and Helen Pugh.

## **Cubs**

Terry Mitchell (Akela)  
Jillian Mitchell (Nushka)  
Wendy Rennie (Raksha)  
Freerk Numan (Baloo)

## **Keas**

Marion Ward (Fantail)  
Sharon Healy (Tui)  
Assisted by Carina Davis

Peter Fleming is available to rejoin us as a leader until the end of this year, however we still need another leader or two to help take us into next year. We have a strong scout troop, and we don't want to lose it.

## **Jamboree 2001/2**

Fundraising is going well for Jamboree this year, and your support is appreciated. We have 20 scouts and 3 leaders going, and I'm sure they will all have a wonderful time.

Planning by the District team is progressing well, and the Scouts will know that Jamboree is near, when they go to the District Pre-Jamboree camp in November, and meet all the other Scouts and Leaders going from Deans District.

## **Badge Vests**

Badge vests have now become an optional part of the official uniform, and can be worn over the green shirts. Our Group will use the green vests that will be available through the Scout Shop sometime in the near future. We will let you know when they become available. Badges

that have been earned through Cubs or Scouts will be allowed to be worn on this vest.

## **Lost Property**

Do you know we have a lost property box in the Den. This is filling up again, and I'm sure some of those clothes are still wanted by someone. Please look through it next time you are waiting for your child at a section night, and take any item that belongs to your family. The box can usually be found near the brooms, in front of the kitchen.

## **A request from the Scout Leaders**

Do you know of anyone who has left Scouts in recent years, and no longer wants their Scout Badge book, or are prepared to lend it to our Troop for a while? These books are not currently available at the Scout Shop, and our Leaders only have one available for Scout section nights (and one book does not go far between 34 scouts). It is called "The Scout Exploration Programme for New Zealand Scouts", © 1991. Please contact John Saywell if you can help, Ph 348-5678.

## **A Preview of things to come next term**

### ***JOTA/JOTI***

(Jamboree on the Air (Amateur Radio), and Jamboree on the Internet)

These are being held this year over Labour Weekend (20 & 21 October), and are an international event. We hope to have a District event planned for JOTA, and JOTI can be participated in from home, if you have a connection to the Internet. More details about these later.

## ***Trek***

This is to be held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November. No, it won't be the Bridle Path track again. More details on this later too.

## **Thank You**

Thank you to those parents who were able to help in the last two months with working bees at Rimu Park.

Rimu Park is a wonderful facility we have in our own backyard, owned by the District. However, to enable us to be able to use the Park freely, we have to help with a few working bees each year. I hope more parents will be able to help next year.

## **And a Gentle Reminder**

Please ensure your child is collected from the den promptly at the end of the section meeting (Keas 5.30pm, Cubs 8pm, Scouts 8.30pm, or other time and/or place for a particular activity as advised by the leaders). Our leaders do have other things to do after the meeting, and cannot always stay to look after children being picked up late.

Finally, some more photos from camp.



Libby Davis  
Group Leader

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