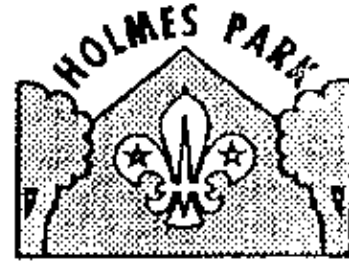


# Holmes Park Scout Group Newsletter



Issue 6, March 2003

Welcome to Holmes Park Scouting in 2003 and a special warm welcome to all the new families that have joined our Group.

Our year has gone off to a great start, especially in the Cub and Scout sections. But first, let me tell you how we finished off last year.

## Keas

Term 3 was their artwork term, including wearable arts, sculptures, visiting The Oaks resthome with some of their pictures, and finishing off with a wonderful Art Exhibition in front of lots of visitors.

At the end of the school holidays, most of the Keas went to the National Kea Day event and did lots of activities from around the world.

Term 4 had lots of different things, including a Bring a Friend night, Orienteering, a Nature Walk at Riccarton Bush, and Gift Making (yum). Also in the programme were the District Camporee at Omaka, and our Group Camp at Wainui. Both were lots of fun.

At the end of the year, we said goodbye to our two leaders. Tui (Sharon Healy) has gone to be a Cub Leader (as Bagheera), and Fantail (Marion Ward) has stopped being leader, but she did come back this term to help one night with our baking.

## Cubs

Cubs were doing Movie Madness in term 3, with the highlight being the night at the St Martins Scout Den, climbing the climbing wall like Spiderman. At the end of the term, they had a movie on a big screen with drink, popcorn etc at the den. They watched Spy Kids. The District Soccer Tournament at Darfield was rained (and hailed) out, and was later held as a twilight tournament at Burnside Park. A bit different and the change was enjoyed by those who went.

Term 4 was based on Sports, with a different one each week (and some really different ones, what are "Toe Tyre Targets"?). They also did some orienteering at the Botanic Gardens.

A highlight for the Cubs was District Camporee, and again the Group Camp at Wainui. Lots of fun activities, including fishing from the jetty with poles made themselves, and finding marbles in a bucket of slime.

Raksha (Wendy Rennie) left us at the end of the year, to go to scouts (as a leader that is).

## Scouts

Since the last newsletter, the scouts have held a cooking camp, and entered the District Campers Cup competition as well as making cards and a leather belt, and going ten-pin bowling (and that was just finishing off term 3). In term 4, they did various activities with bikes, as well as visiting the fire station, and building ballisters in preparation for Camporee. It seems getting wet was on much of the programme for the term, as there was lots of getting wet at camporee, making and using rafts at Group Camp, outdoor games, and finally a swim at QE2 pool.

A number of scouts went on the Selwyn Safari tramp, where the feature was Saturday's dessert being flown in by helicopter.

A highlight was the presentation of their Chief Scout Awards to Elizabeth Saywell, Talizah Hines and Lee Clemens. Congratulations and well done.

September saw the District Ice Skating event, enjoyed by those who attended, and the Area Trek was held in November.

*So how do we follow such a year as we had in 2002? By planning an even better 2003!!*

## Keas

Keas has continued this term, however it is hard with just 5 Keas, and no warranted Kea Leader. I have run it this term, with the help of Carina Davis (a Venturer) and Sophie Hooper (an ex-scout).

Because the numbers have been low, we have not required a parent roster, but this may be started up again in the future. We really are in need of Leaders and more Keas.

This term we having been doing things based on the letter B. We have made biscuit bugs, built and sailed boats, played with balls, made pictures with bubbles, done baking, looked at books and made bookmarks, and had lots of fun with balloons.

Most of us went to the Area Kea Swim afternoon at Wharenui Pool, and also to the Deans District Water Sports at Jellie Park.

### **Cubs**

Well, what a term it has been for Cubs. What a wonderful time we had at Cub Day 2003 at Blue Skies. The camp was based on going around the world, and each group had a different country to represent, and provide activities from. We were Japan, and you can see some of the items we made by our noticeboard in the den. We had 30 Cubs there, the largest number from a single pack at the camp. A great big thanks must go to Akela and Nushka (Terry and Jillian), for not only organising our Pack so well, but also for being part of the group of people who organised the whole event for Canterbury Area. Thank you also to the other Leaders and parents who were able to stay and help that weekend.

Since Cub Day, the Cubs have had a food theme, including a Survivor Night at Rimu Park. And we can't finish off the term with food and near Easter, without eggs and chickens.

### **Scouts**

This term the scouts have had a games night, been rafting and kayaking down the Avon River, been to the Maize Maze and entered the Area Kon Tiki raft race. Unfortunately the scouts were not placed in the raft race, but the leaders won the novelty section. The Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders went on camp for them to develop their patrol leadership skills, at Purau Bay in Lyttelton Harbour. A camp planned for last weekend was cancelled because no parents were available to help over the weekend. Still to come are a night run by the Patrol Leaders, a cooking night at Rimu Park, and navigating at McLeans Island.

*Now to some more administrative topics, for the start of the year (please don't stop reading here.)*

### **Fees & Fundraising**

You will receive your fees invoice shortly, and may note that the fees have gone up slightly this year. This is the first increase we have made for 5 years, and the decision to raise them was not done lightly. Our costs have gone up slowly during this time, mainly the insurance (especially after the September 11, 2001 events), as well as costs of the materials used by the sections, and the fees charged by the National office. (The fees to the National office cover such things as developing the training and resources, and implementing them.) In addition, the amount of fundraising people have been doing for the group has been dropping, and the profits have been dropping. This is what we used to cover the difference between the fees charged and the costs incurred. It isn't enough any more. If you have any ideas of how we can get more money from fundraising, please tell any of the committee. We appreciate your input.

Early next term, we will be selling Hillmorten Pies as a fundraiser. Please help us and get as many orders for pies as you can. We also hope to do some sausage sizzles at The Warehouse. Please help with these if you can. Other fundraising event will happen later in the year.

### **Cleaning Roster**

The den cleaning roster is being issued for the rest of this term and most of term 2. If your name is on this list, please note the date on your diary, calendar or what you use to remind you of such events, and attend to the cleaning that weekend. Instructions regarding key are on the roster, and a list of what needs cleaning is up in the den and inside the cleaning cupboard. Please let Trish know if there are any cleaning supplies that need replenishing.

### **Quartermaster**

At present we have no quartermaster. This is a person who is responsible for looking after the equipment that the Scout Group has, mainly the camping equipment. It is not a big job, and although this person is generally on the committee, I do not consider that is essential. The main thing to do is to ensure that the equipment we have is in

good order, organising repairs as required etc, and keeping track that equipment taken away for camps etc is returned to the den. Please contact me if you or someone you know may be interested in this position.

### Parent Helpers

We need your assistance, especially at camps and other outings.

All the leaders are volunteers, and give their time freely to take your children away when required on camps etc. However, they cannot always do it without some parental assistance. We have certain conditions that have to be met, to ensure we stay within safety limits etc, and if that cannot be met because we cannot get extra adults along to help, then the event has to be cancelled. This happened recently with a planned scout camp/tramp. Only two leaders were available to go with the 13 scouts, and no parents/caregivers were able to

help. We were not happy with the adult/scout ratio, if anything had happened, so had to call it off.

So please, if your child is going on an outing and the call is made for parents to help, please seriously consider it. We are not just a babysitting service, and expect parental input as well as your child's.

### Lost Property

There is a box of lost property piling up in the den, near the rubbish bin. Mostly from Cub Day and swimming sports. Please check for your items.

Libby Davis  
Group Leader  
Phone 348-0360

And finally, we would like to update our database of information about your child and contact details. Several of the leaders would like to send out notices by email if possible, and would like your email address if you are happy to receive notices this way, but please only if you check your email regularly (at least twice a week), and you are able to print off any permission slips etc you receive.

Whether you want email notices or not, please complete the following slip and return it to the section leader.

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Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents'/Guardians Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Receive notices by email? Y / N

I am prepared to assist the Group in the following ways:

Help as an Adult Leader   
Serve a term as a committee member   
Help at and supervise games and activities  
at meetings and camps   
Training and testing Cubs/Scouts for  
interest badges

Sewing scarves etc   
Secretarial work or typing   
Use of cars for transport   
Fundraising activities   
Help with accounts   
Help with repairs and maintenance

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_