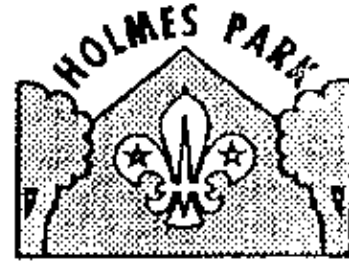


Holmes Park Scout Group Newsletter



Issue 9, November 2004

As we draw closer to the end of another year, I hope that your family has enjoyed its involvement with Holmes Park Scout Group this year, and I look forward to seeing you at the activities that have still to happen this year, and back again in February 2005.

17th NZ Jamboree

I read a Jamboree update this morning that said that there are only 49 days to Jamboree. I am sure all our scouts who are going are getting excited. There are now over 4,500 people registered to be at Jamboree either as participants, leaders or staff. The activities planned look really great. If you want to look at the Jamboree website to see for yourself, you can find it at

<http://jamboree.scouts.org.nz>

There is an open day on 2nd January 2005, so if you are going to be in the Feilding area for a holiday, you are welcome to visit. There will be special activities organised for the Keas and Cubs on that day.

End of Year break-up

We have our end of year break-up and AGM planned for Friday 10th December, at Rimu Park. This is an enjoyable evening for the whole group, and this year we have some special activity planned for the whole family (remember our Group Camp earlier this year?) We will start with fish & chips or BBQ for tea (bring your own food, limited space available on BBQ's). We will hold our AGM while the children are kept busy, then we will have the special activity. A notice will be sent home separately about this.

Scout Leaders needed now!!

You may recall that I mentioned our shortage of scout leaders in my last newsletter in August. Unfortunately we are still in the same position, with only two leaders for 23 scouts.

This is not enough, and we urgently need another one or two leaders. Please seriously consider if you are able to help us. Without new leaders soon, we may have to close our scout section. We would only do this as a last resort however. If you would like more information, or a chance to discuss what is involved, please talk to George Pearce, myself, or Terry Mitchell. Support and training is given to all new leaders.

Committee Members needed!!

At our AGM, we will elect our committee for next year. Unfortunately, several of our long serving members are retiring at the end of this year, so we will need 3-4 people to join us. Please seriously consider joining our team, as it is a very important role within the group. We have one meeting per month, and each committee member has a job they are responsible for, such as secretary, treasurer, maintenance, hall hire & cleaning, and helping to co-ordinate fundraising. If you have any queries, or even better if you want to put your name forward, please see Libby.

Fundraising

Now that the Jamboree scouts have fundraised to pay for their jamboree fee, travel etc, it is time for the Group to take over fundraising again. Since we haven't been fundraising for the past year, we need to build up our reserves again. Without fundraising, we would have to raise our fees. Therefore it is important that all families participate in fundraising, as all families benefit from it.

Sausage Sizzles

Thank you to those parents who have been available to help at the last two sausage sizzles at The Hornby Warehouse. We have two more sausage sizzles planned for this year. Firstly, we have a big one at Bunnings, on **November 28th**. We will need more people than usual for this one, as we need to stay there longer, and it can get very busy there. Our last one will be at The Hornby Warehouse again on **December 19th**.

You will be phoned soon and asked if you are available to help with either or both of these.

Cub Cookies

Thank you to all who took Cub Cookies to sell, and have handed in the money. If you are still holding on to money and/or unsold cookies, please hand them in to Libby as soon as possible. We would like all outstanding money in before the break-up if possible.

I still have 8 boxes (about 130 packets) of cookies left to sell. If you are able to take more to sell, please see me and I can give you more or complete and hand in the order form below.

They would make a nice Christmas gift, while promoting scouting at the same time.

Chocolates

We still have some chocolate bars left from the Jamboree fundraising. If you would like to buy or sell some of these as well as or instead of the Cub Cookies, please see Libby about these too, or complete and hand in the order form below.

Motukarara Races cleanups

We have been given the opportunity to do further fundraising by cleaning up the grounds after the horse races at Motukarara racetrack (picking up cans, litter etc). Some of the Jamboree scouts did this last summer, and it makes good money (about \$150 per race meeting).

This time, you will be able to 'bank' the money you earn cleaning up after the races, to help pay for your child/ren to attend Group Camp to be held early next year.

The dates for the races coming up are:

November 28th (Sunday) (note: same day as the Bunnings sausage sizzle). Meet at turnoff to racetrack at 5pm.

December 29th (Wednesday) (meeting time to be advised)

January 31st 2005 (Monday) (time TBA)

February 25th (Friday) (time TBA)

April 3rd (Sunday) (time TBA)

We need 4-6 people each time if possible (Keas, Cubs & Scouts can be part of this).

If you have any questions about this, you can ring Leanne Page (Kea Leader) on 942 8094.

Put your name on the roster on the Parents' notice board if you are able to help.

Group Camp

We have a weekend booked for our Group Camp next year. It will be held 19-21 March 2005, and we will be going to Mania-O-Roto Park, in Ashburton. Cubs and Scouts can stay for the full weekend, and Keas come from lunchtime Saturday until the end of camp on Sunday afternoon. This is an excellent Scout park, with great outdoor facilities particularly. More details will be given about this at the beginning of next year, including cost. Diary it now so you don't miss out. We would appreciate a few parents to stay with us, to help with cooking meals etc.

Uniform

I have seen that we still have a few children who are not wearing the official scout shirt. The Scout Shop has all sizes in stock again therefore all members must wear the official shirt.

Some of the older style shirts are starting to look very faded and worn, and some are too small for the wearer. I suggest that if your child is wearing one of these, then you consider going to the Scout Shop and replacing the shirt. The new style shirts keep their colour and shape much better than the old ones.

Badge Vests

You may have noticed we have some members in Cubs and Scouts who are wearing vests with their badges on them. Keas are also allowed to wear these vests. These vests are allowed now as part of our uniform, as long as they are the same green colour as the official scout shirt.

There are several options available for this.

Scout Shop: The Scout Shop has vests available in most sizes, including adults. These have the Scouting NZ Logo embroidered on them.

Postie Plus: These are the same as the Scout Shop vests, but with no scout logo.

Privately made: These can be ordered as a bulk order, and need to be paid for on order. They are different from the shop vests, with purple trim down the front. See Libby if interested in this option.

Fees

We have a number of families who have still not paid all their fees for this year. It is important that we receive these fees, as the money is needed to pay for the hall and its upkeep, resources needed by the sections, as well as items used in their programmes, and training of the leaders. If you are one of the families who are not up to date, please pay by the end of the year. You will be receiving a reminder invoice or phone call shortly,

Cub Cookies and/or Chocolate bars

I would like to have

_____ packets of Cub Cookies (\$3 ea)

_____ bars of chocolate (\$2 ea)

to sell. I will hand in the money from them as soon as possible to Libby Davis.

Lost Property

As usual, we have accumulated a lot of lost property over the year. This will be brought along to the break up at the end of the year, and any items not claimed or able to be returned to its owner, will be donated to charity. Please look through this pile at the hall before the break up, or at the break up at Rime Park.

Mural in Hall

You may have noticed a change along the back wall in the hall. The Scouts have been working on a four-part mural over the last few months, and the finished project can be seen on the wall. Doesn't it look great!

I hope to see you over the next month at the various events we have planned, and especially at our Break up on 10th December.

After that, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and holidays, and look forward to seeing you again next year.

Libby Davis
Ph 348-0360

Group Leader

Child's Name: _____

Section: _____

Ph Number: _____

Guardian's Signature: _____