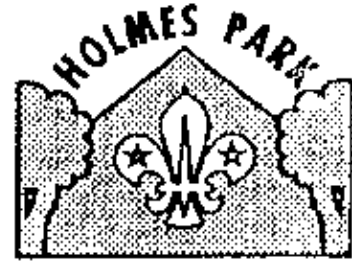


Holmes Park Scout Group Newsletter



Issue 7, October 2003

Welcome to all the new families who have joined our Group since my last newsletter in March.

New Leaders

First of all, I want to welcome our two new leaders. Well, it's a big welcome back to George Pearce, Scout Leader, who has returned after living on the West Coast for a while. It's great to have you back George. And a big welcome to Dianne Downward, who has heard my plea for Kea Leaders, and has become our newest Leader. Both George and Dianne have children in Keas, so we hope to have them along for a while. We still need another Leader in Keas, however, there is progress being made on this too; I'll keep you posted.

Congratulations are due to John Saywell and Jillian Mitchell, who were recently recognised for their service to Scouting by being awarded the Chief Scout Commendation (5 yrs) and Medal of Merit (10 yrs) respectively.

Term 4 Programmes

This term is a very busy one for all sections.

Keas

The Keas have a programme planned around Nature, then Christmas. They are planning an outing in the next few weeks to see some animals, and so far this term have looked at frogs and insects. They made some great jumping frogs from cardboard and rubber bands, as well as some delicious bugs (made with lollies and biscuits).

We now have 12 Keas, which is a great improvement on the 5 we had in the first term. This makes it a lot more fun for the children involved. We still have room for more children.

Cubs

The Cubs this term have their theme of "It makes a Difference". If you want to know more, see their newsletter on the Cub noticeboard. They have a lot of activities on different nights this term, with

the Deans District Trolley Derby this coming week, the Trek next month, as well as the Deans District Camporee at the end of November.

Scouts

The Scouts have a varied programme this term, ranging from a speaker to talk about disabilities, campfires, cycling, & knots and lashings. The older scouts also have the opportunity to go on the Area Selwyn Safari tramp in December.

Highlights of the last six months have included:

Arthurs Pass train trip

All Cubs and Keas, and later Scouts also, were able to go on a train trip to Arthurs Pass, organised by Area, at discounted prices. Friends were also able to come, and current Cubs and Keas could have discounts if they brought friends along. Almost the whole Kea Club and some friends went on the train trip on August 17th. What a wonderful trip they had, enjoying the scenery, going for a walk partway to Bridal Veil falls and seeing a Kea, as well as meeting other Keas and Cubs from around Canterbury. Some photos of the trip can be seen on the Kea noticeboard.

Some scouts and leaders also went on a later trip that went through to Greymouth with a bus trip to Shantytown.

Scouts do well in District events

Two district Scout events were held last term, in which the scouts did very well. In August they were second in the District Shooting competition, an event usually dominated by the country based scout groups. And in September they were first equal in the District Campers Cup competition, along with West Melton. These are excellent results, well done.

Court Theatre Tour and Art Gallery Visit

As part of their "The Arts" programme in term 3, the Cubs were able to visit the Court Theatre and Art Gallery on a Wednesday night, and got a tour around the Court Theatre. What a wonderful opportunity! I am sure they enjoyed it.

Upcoming Events

Trek

This year the Trek is on 3rd November, and is to Taylors Mistake. I hope to see lots of the children walking it this year. You should have already received a notice about this, and the Cubs are making it their section activity for that week.

Camporee

On 28-30 November, we have the Deans District Camporee, this year being held at Hororata Domain. The Scouts and 10 year old Cubs stay for the full weekend in tents, and the rest of the Cubs and Keas visit from Saturday afternoon until after campfire in the evening. This is always a great weekend, and I encourage as many of the children to go as can. We will need some parents to stay to assist with the Cubs and Keas on Saturday afternoon, as not all the leaders are able to attend. More information will be sent home by the section leaders soon.

Group Camp

We had hoped to have our Group Camp in November, however we have been unable to get a suitable venue on the weekend that we wanted. It will now be held in March next year. You will receive information about it at the beginning of next year.

End-of-year Break-up

Our break-up at the end of the year will be held on Sunday 14th December. This is a day for the whole family to come, where we can have a picnic lunch, with activities organised for the children while the adults attend the Group AGM. I look forward to seeing you all there. The venue is still being finalised, and you will get a notice about this next month.

Fees Invoices

Many of you will now be receiving invoices for the second half year fees, and investiture fees also in some cases. We apologise for the lateness of their issue, and ask that you pay them as soon as

possible, as the Group needs the funds for running the sections' activities. There are a number of parents that haven't paid for the first half year yet, and we ask that they especially be paid quickly. Thank you to those parents who pay the full year's fee at the start of the year, as it reduces our paperwork, and gives us more working cash to use.

Cleaning Roster

Now just a reminder from Trish Hooper, our committee member responsible for ensuring the hall is kept clean. If you have been rostered on for cleaning, please ensure you return the dirty teatowels, cleaning cloths etc to Trish when you return the key to her, after cleaning the hall. Thanks.

Jamboree

It is only 15 months until the next Scout Jamboree, to be held at Manfeild Park, Feilding. Many of our Scouts and older Cubs, and their parents, have started fundraising for this great event. Please support them when you can, as you may be in their position next time, and would like the support of other parents when it is your turn to fundraise. In November, they plan to sell sunblock, and you should receive a notice about this soon. In December, we hope to sell Cub Cookies, and these should be very popular leading up to Christmas.

Lost Property

Again, we have built up a large box of lost property since the beginning of this year. If you think some might be yours, please ask a Leader after section meeting, as it is kept in the cleaning cupboard out of the way.

To finish, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to another successful year at Holmes Park. Our numbers continue to be strong, showing that we must be offering the right programmes to keep the children coming. We have a great team of leaders, and with all our support they can continue to be a great team.

At the end of the year, I hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas and refreshing break from school and work.

I look forward to seeing you all again next year for another great year of Scouting at Holmes Park.

Libby Davis

Group Leader