



Third and Early Fourth Terms of Scouting, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, I apologise for the delay in getting this news letter out: as you are aware, we have already participated in a number of activities this term, including:

- an indoor climbing night with 1st Wentworthville and 1st Westmead (on 25 July);
- National Tree Day (well attended by our Scouts as well as a Cub Scout and a Joey Scout at Baronbali Street Reserve on 28 July);
- a visit to our local Fire Station (at Harris Park, on 1 August); State Rally (attended by 6 of our more adventurous Scouts on 2-4 August);
- an afternoon hike, being a Grey Wolf Hike organised by Cosmica Donna Aroon held on 10 August, but also attended by 4 of our Scouts and during which Rosy McCann was officially invested as a Scout);
- a 1st Aid course attended by Tanya Demlakian and Gordon Guo on 18 August (who have both achieved Apply First Aid certification); and
- a practice camp attended by four of our Scouts at 1st Wentworthville Scout Hall last weekend in preparation for the Parramatta District Camping Competition (being held this coming weekend)

so it has been a very active term already. Nonetheless, we still have a couple of upcoming events this term, as described below.

Saturday 7 September and Sunday 8 September: Parramatta District Competition Camp. The Scouts have been working hard towards this event, which provides the winner with bragging rights as the year's most effective standing camp patrol. A permission note was sent out last Thursday, and money (\$5 for Camp Comp registration and \$20 for food) and permission notes will need to be handed to Alexander tonight or, at the latest, Saturday morning. Those who attended practice Camp Comp last weekend still need to reimburse me for food and consumables expenses (\$20 each).

Sunday, 15 September: Troop Council at The Count's place (Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders only).

Thursday evening 19 September: "Night Stalk" being run with 1st Wentworthville Scouts. We will be going to Vineyard Creek reserve armed with torches, pens and notepads, and will record the animal species we see, to then send the results to Perth Zoo. Many groups (not just Scouts) are participating in this event throughout September-October, and Perth Zoo will collate all the results to provide a 'snapshot' of the animal species living around Australia, including in urban reserves – you would be surprised!

Sometime during the School Holidays??: Possibly an overnight hike, although the Scouts still have to organise something.

Saturday 5 October: Bushcare work with the Pemberton Street Bushcare group. Permission note to follow.

Sunday 6 October: Troop Council at The Count's place (Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders only).

Friday 18 to Sunday 20 October: JOTA/JOTI. This is Jamboree on the air and Jamboree on the internet. JOTA/JOTI is an activity where the scouts get to communicate with other scouts throughout Australia (over the air on CB radio) and throughout the world (over the internet). Unfortunately, my experience is that this event lacks direction, and this shows in the activities (or lack thereof) organised. Reading between the lines, you may detect that I am not a big fan, but this is a personal view, and some scouts in the past have found it mildly interesting. If there are any Scouts willing to go, Winston Hills Scout Hall and North Rocks Scout Hall typically host JOTA/JOTI in the Parramatta District, usually at a cost of \$5 (which includes a badge) - Scouts who wish to attend should check their websites (see below) for any sessions, bookings and costs. I may be available to take some Scouts on the Sunday afternoon if there is enough interest.

<http://www.winstonhillsscoutgroup.com/>

<http://northrocksscouts.org/>

Saturday 26 October to Sunday 27 October: The Scouts are thinking of another overnight hike in this period. Further information to follow.

Saturday 2 November: Bushcare work with the Pemberton Street Bushcare group. Permission note to follow.

Sunday 3 November: Troop Council at The Count's place (Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders only).

Friday 8 to Sunday 10 November: Waratah. This is a wide game run by the Greater Western Sydney Venturers. 14 year old scouts may participate (and will find it a lot of fun) with Venturer units. Ermington Venturers are looking for participants from our Scout Troop, and I have further information if you are interested.

Sunday 17 November: Parramatta District Raft Race. This is a full-day activity (starting at 8:45am), and a lot of fun for the Scouts, who will plan, build and race their rafts (either traditional or super class) in three races, one in which the Scouts also get to test their first aid skills, and one in which each patrol has to tow a 'helper' (each patrol will need to identify and engage a 'helper' to tow: this could be a parent, sister, brother or friend). Further information and a permission note will follow.

Please note that BBQ facilities, a kiosk, parking, toilets etc are available at Lake Parramatta reserve, and families and friends are most welcome – make a picnic day of it, and come and cheer your Scout(s) along!

Friday 22 to Sunday 24 November: Group camp currently only tentatively set for this date. Further information and a permission note will be sent out soon once a venue and fixed date are set.

Sunday 1 December: Troop Council at The Count's place (Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders only).

Saturday 7 December: Bushcare work with the Pemberton Street Bushcare group. Permission note to follow.

Sunday 8 or 15 December?: Fun day on the water is usually scheduled for around about this time (but is not yet entered on the GWSR Calendar). This has been a big hit with those cubs and scouts who have attended in the past. Cost is usually about \$10 (does not include food, which will be available at the venue, Angle Park on Lake Chipping Norton). You could (and many do) arrange to have this as a family picnic day out. Further information will follow in the near future.

Sometime in December or January: Our retiring Scouts (Alexander, Gary, Zyntaurus, Tanya, Olivia and Gordon, although the last two may keep going until later in 2014) want to organise a Camp "Derp", aimed at having fun only. They are thinking of holding it at Camp Windeyer (near Galston Gorge). Further information to follow.

Yours in scouting



The Count (David Myers)