



1st Russell Vale Scouts

January 2012 Newsletter

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome back to Scouts for 2012. It's not long before we get stuck into the new term, and there are a few bits of news you need to know.

Fees

We have been advised by Scouts NSW to review the fees we charge and consider raising them into line with their suggested fees. We've decided to keep the rise a bit more manageable:

	PREVIOUS	SUGGESTED NEW	ACTUAL NEW
Joining Fee	\$30.00	\$100.00	\$60.00
Term Fee	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$60.00

The Joining Fee won't affect you, as a current member, but we have also raised the Term Fee by \$10. As always, if you have trouble paying the fees, please have a chat with our Group Leader.

Fundraising

Your Group Leader and Committee have been making applications for grants but we can't be sure whether we'll get everything we ask for - or even anything at all. So, we really need to take up every fundraising opportunity we can.

The first opportunity this year comes to us courtesy of Corrimal Junior Surf Life Saving club. On Sunday 29th January, the Nippers will be running the **BBQ** for the **Junior Surf Carnival** to be held at Corrimal Beach. Most of their usual volunteers will be helping to run the carnival itself so they've invited us to help out on the BBQ, for a cut of the profits.

Col Moodie from Nippers has asked for volunteers for one or more of the following timeslots:

- 7am to 9am
- 9am to 11am
- 11am to 1pm
- 1pm to 3pm
- 3pm to 4pm cleanup

This one event will be worth several hundred dollars to us, which will translate directly into better equipment and activity resources for our Cubs and Scouts.

Any parents - and older Scouts - who can help out, please contact our Group Chairperson Ricky by phone or text on 0408 210 127 or email at ricky@onsman.com.

GROUP LEADER'S REPORT

A Happy New Year to everyone! We hope that you are all having a fantastic summer break.

In order to keep you up to date with our plans for 2012 we have decided to send out an interim Newsletter during the school holidays.

In addition to our usual action-packed term programs for the Cub pack and Scout troop (programs to be distributed at the start of term) there are a number of important events occurring in 2012 that parents should be aware of.

The main event that we will be working toward and fundraising for this year is the **23rd Australian Scout Jamboree** (AJ2013), to be held from January 2-12, 2013 in Maryborough, Qld. Those Scouts fortunate enough to have attended AJ2010 will recall what a fantastic time they had and the lifelong friendships that developed from that meeting. AJ2013 should be an even better event with over 13,000 Scouts and Leaders from all over Australia expected to attend. Throughout this year our Scout Leaders will be assisting eligible Scouts to meet the necessary selection criteria for attendance at AJ2013. Stay tuned for further details, and in the meantime check out the AJ2013 website (see [link](#) on [our website](#)).

Another event coming up soon is the **Group's Duty Camp**, to be held at Mt Keira Scout Camp from 24-25 March (TBC). This camp always proves to be a lot of fun and is a great opportunity to Cubs and Scouts to work together in helping maintain the Scout Camp.

Importantly, our **Annual General Meeting** (AGM) will be held at the conclusion of the Duty Camp. The AGM is an opportunity for you to elect a new Committee for 2012 and thereby participate in the ongoing management and development of our Group. Functions of the Group Committee include:

- Ensuring that the Group has adequate funding to carry out its role
- Ensuring that all plant and equipment used by the Group is suitable for the purpose for which it is being used and meets the current safety standards
- Ensuring that all records are kept and funds accounted for in accordance with the applicable laws of the state and rules of the Scout Association
- Management of group property and accommodation
- Assisting the Group Leader with finance, fundraising, public relations and publicity, and recruiting adult leaders and helpers
- Establishing and maintaining good working relationships with all levels of the local community

At the AGM all Committee positions will be vacated, and many of the current Committee members will be moving on. So there are a lot of positions to be filled, including:

- Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Fundraising Officer
- Public Relations Officer
- Quartermaster
- OH&S Officer

We have also created a number of additional positions commencing 2012 including:

- Maintenance Officer
- Grants Officer
- Property Development Officer

Remember it is *YOUR* group and without *YOUR* help we can't continue to offer and fund an excellent, well-balanced Scouting program for *YOUR* children. As an example, in 2011 our Committee was able to purchase essential fire safety equipment, new tents, GPS units, office equipment, and carry out essential repairs to the Scout Hall due to our success in obtaining a \$5000 Federal Government grant. Without the hard work of the Committee none of this would have been possible.

Other events to keep in mind this year include:

- Scout Pig Skin (April)
- Cub Jamboree of the Trail (May)
- State Scout Rally (August)
- District Cub Camp (September)
- Cub Jamborette (October)

We are in also urgent need of potential **Cub or Scout Leaders** to help share the load with our current, very hard working leaders. This year we would like to grow the Group into other sections such as **Venturers** and **Joey's** but we can't do this until we recruit additional Leaders.

Please consider becoming a leader – we really need your help. Cub or Scout Leadership is a great way to provide some valuable community service and at the same time interact with your own, and others', kids! The training is mostly done online now and the workload is not too onerous. On average the commitment would be 2-3 hours per week with the odd weekend activity each term. Many hands make light work!

We look forward to your continued involvement in our Group in 2012.

Steve Harvey

Group Leader

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