



1st Ermington Scout Group

Greater Western Sydney Region



September Newsletter



Term 3

Term 3 has again been another busy one for the 1st Ermington Scouts participating in a variety of activities : State Rally, Practice Comp Camp, NSW Police Youth Liaison Visit, Wentworth Park Wide Game, Green Book Challenge and Code Red. We have again be fortunate to welcome a number of new Scouts into the troop which is great to see. Term 4 is when we generally undertake some hiking. With the warmer weather and extra daylight the evening hikes will be enjoyable. There will also be the district raft race which will certainly present a good challenge.

B.R.A.V.O.O.O



The NSW State Rally is run each year on the first full weekend in August at Cataract Scout Park by the State Commissioner, Scouts and the NSW Mindari Team. It provides the opportunity for Scouts from all over NSW. There were some 1000 scouts participating this year. 1st Ermington had one competitive patrol and one non-competitive patrol this year. A big thank you to all the scouts that participated. Congratulations to the Dingoes who were awarded '**Region Champions**' for Greater Western Sydney and '**Third**' in the state. We would also like to congratulate Elysia for receiving the award for **Best Patrol Leader**. The efforts from this year will certainly lead the way for 1st Ermington to return in 2014.





Wentworth Common Wide Game

On the 15th August we ran a wide game at the Wentworth Common at Sydney Olympic park. The park is a great reminder of the fantastic outdoor facilities that we have available to us. The Scouts had to undertake many challenges, the first being a climb to the top of the marker hill to retrieve their first clue. They then had the fun task of finding the leaders whilst carrying custard in paper bags. Each time the bag got a bit more soggy. As the Scouts made their way in the dark looking for the hidden (lost) leader the really really tall leader had fun flower bombing the unsuspecting scouts. It was a great night out and certainly something to be done again. Thanks to the Scouts and Leaders for making the night so enjoyable.



Practice Comp Camp



On the weekend of the 24th and 25th August a number of scouts participated in the Practice Comp camp that was held at the Cattai National Park. The camp was a good opportunity for the scouts to practice and hone their skills in : cooking, tentage, gadgets, gateway etc.. The weather was super and everyone had a very enjoyable time. The practice camp was done in conjunction with Carlingford so the scouts had an opportunity to meet and interact with another troop. Well done and thanks to everyone involved.





NSW Police Youth Liaison Visit



The Youth Liaison Officer role also involves implementing strategies to reduce juvenile crime including: crime prevention and safety talks at schools, juvenile crime reduction programs; and networking with other agencies. They are the primary point of contact between NSW Police and Juvenile Justice. There is a YLO at each of the 80 Local Area Commands across NSW.

1st Ermington was fortunate to be able to have the YLO officer from the Rose Hill local area command visit us on 29th August. The evening was very informative and interactive with the Scouts learning about the role of Police in the Community, Bullying, Cyber Bullying, Personal Safety, Online Safety, Drugs and Alcohol. There are all very important and relevant topics to the youths participating in Scouting. We are very grateful and thankful for the support from the Rose Hill LAC.



Comp Camp

On the weekend of the 7th and 8th of September we had a number of scouts participate in this years comp camp. For many parents the Saturday was taken up with voting in the federal election but for the Scouts at Bundilla the challenge was again upon them to demonstrate their camping skills. The scouts had a good weekend and we look forward to 2014 when we hope to have many more scouts participating in this important activity.

Parramatta is still one of the few districts that is able and willing to host a comp camp and we do encourage the scouts to participate. For the scouts that weren't able to participate this year we looking forward to strong turn out in 2014.





Green Book Challenge

On the 12th September we had a very interesting Green book challenge. The first part of the challenge required scouts to decipher a very cryptic set of codes using their green books. Each code gave them a clue to a hidden object. The 4 objects ended up being: Egg, Orange, String and a Tea bag. The second part of the challenge required them to light a camp fire, boil some water in a paper bag, use the water to make a cup of tea. The third part of the challenge required the scouts to cook the egg in the orange. There were some very interesting attempts and Stilts was able to get a cup of tea from two groups. Some manage to burn the paper bag before the water boiled and some did eventually work out that the string would avoid getting your fingers burnt. Verdict at the end of the night:

Boil Water in Paper Bag



Cup of Tea



Egg in Orange



Code Red Lazer Tag

The end of term activity saw the scouts head off to Code Red at Rose Hill. It was a great night with the scouts being able to complete 5 games in 2 hours. The scouts had to the mission to protect their base and tag the opponent's. Escape down narrow, winding passages through fog and flashing lights, staying out of the line of fire. The hi-tech, 4 level maze was full of evolving tricks and turns to keep them on their toes.

