



# 2014 Newsletter



**Term 1**

Term 1 has provided a great start to the year for the 1st Ermington Scouts participating in a variety of activities : Fire Awareness Night, District Swim Carnival, Evening Hike, Heritage Walk in Parramatta, International Cooking, Bunnings BBQ, Movie Night and Ultimate Frisbee. A number of Scouts also took the opportunity to participate in some region based activities run by Greater Western Sydney - Abseil Proficiency Badge and Canoe Course at SWASH. We have been extremely fortunate to welcome a number of new Scouts into the Troop which is great to see.

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



## Fire Awareness Night

On Thur 16th Feb the Scouts participated in a Fire Awareness Night. Fire awareness is extremely important because the Scouts will often use or be near fire for a variety of purposes (i.e. cooking, camping, cleaning, keeping warm etc.). The key message for the Scouts - respect fire and stay safe, disrespect it and you can get hurt.

The evening consisted of a talk about Fire Awareness / Safety around the home and the community. We discussed the importance of having a fire evacuation plan for home and understanding the different fire danger ratings. The Scouts were amazed to think that during 'extreme' conditions embers can be as far as 6 km ahead of the main fire...

Stilts and Demon Duck setup 2 science experiments which allowed the Scouts to learn about how much oxygen is used up when something burns and whether carbon dioxide is capable of extinguishing a fire.

Stilts also demonstrated the use of a fire blanket and the Scouts were given the opportunity to place the blanket over a flame to gain some valuable practical experience.

The final activity included a practical activity where the scouts setup 4 fires and each had the opportunity to use a water based fire extinguisher & demonstrate their understanding of **P**ull The Pin, **A**im the Hose, **S**queeze the Handle, **S**weep the Water (P.A.S.S)





# Aquatic Night

The Scouts gathered at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre and were able to complete a number of different activities associated with the Water Activities Badge such as : Swim 100 metres whilst wearing a PFD. Be able to remove clothes in the water and then swim 100 metres. The evenings that are planned at the pool are extremely valuable because it helps reaffirm the importance of water safety for the Scouts.



# District Swim Carnival

The District Swim Carnival was a lot of fun for the Scouts that were able to attend. The traditional 50 metre freestyle event kick started the evening but then the real fun began. The 20 metre 'dash' made for a number of very funny events and exciting finishes. Trying to call 1st, 2nd and 3rd when there are 30 competitors made for some interesting photo finishes. The tube and relay events also generated a lot of excitement and all in all the Scouts had a very enjoyable evening.





# S.W.A.S.H

We had a number of Scouts attend the Canoe course on the same weekend as the District Swim Carnival. These region run events are very important because it provides the opportunity for the Scouts to earn their badges under the supervision and instruction from qualified leaders. The Scouts that attended had a terrific weekend and that is certainly reflective of the experience that other Scouts have had. The more Scouts that we can get Canoe certified the better because we can then do more canoe related activities.



## Lake Parramatta Hike

Hawkeye organized an evening hike around Lake Parramatta. Although the walk can be done in an hour with the group of 21 (Leaders + Scouts) and some way point activities we used up the full 2 hours. Although there was some light drizzle in the afternoon this didn't dampen the enthusiasm for the walk. The walk itself started at the dam wall and we then followed the track anti clock wise. The foliage and the surrounds were amazing and the park and the walking track takes on a completely different perspective when it gets dark. Because safety was paramount the PL's had the responsibility to ensure that head count checks were made at each way point. It was a very enjoyable evening and allowed us to appreciate this wonderful park.





# Heritage Walk

Demon-Duck organized a very interesting hike. Scouts did a night walk in Parramatta, to help learn to navigate a topographic map. These skills got used well when the two patrols getting, quote Hawk Eye "geographically confused" during the hike. We found out about our local heritage that surrounds Parramatta's attractions, with the Scouts having to do research on one of the local buildings or parks. It was a successful night over all with Mac Donald's at the end.



# International Cooking Night

Stilts organized a very fun international cooking night. There Scouts had to prepare an entrée, main and dessert dish. Each was setup as a base and the scouts were required to cook and present their 3 dishes. By all accounts it was a great night with many interesting dishes being created. Like learning to start a fire, having the confidence to plan, prepare and cook a meal is equally important. When the Scouts are camping they don't have the luxury of being able to duck down to the corner store. Knowing how to cook different things with different ingredients is an essential part of Scouting because a well fed Scout is a happy Scout. Thanks Stilts for organizing such an amazing fun night.

# Bunnings Opening BBQ

It was all hands on deck for the opening of the new Bunnings at Rydalmere. 1000 sausages were ready to be cooked but unfortunately some extremely heavy rain meant that we only ended up selling about 500. All things considered it was still a great fund raising event and we'd like to thank all the Scouts, Leaders and parents that assisted on the evening.





**1st Ermington Scout Group**

Greater Western Sydney Region



# Ultimate Frisbee



For her Scout Medallion project, Elysia organized an Ultimate Frisbee Gala Day on the 23rd of March. Elysia wanted to say a very big Thank You to all the people that attended and supported the event, it was much appreciated. On the day there was a sausage sandwich BBQ, and many games of ultimate Frisbee played, with parents and Leaders having games, Cubs, Joeys, and Scouts all versing each other in numerous games of Frisbee, that were refereed by Venturers.

This was a terrific social event for the FAMILIES of 1st Ermington to get to know one another or catch up across all sections. This was a well organized event and a great example to other Scouts who may be looking to also undertake the Scout Medallion - Hawkeye...





# Movie Night

For the second last night of Term 1 the Scouts opted for a Pyjama and Movie night. The evening was a lot of fun with much laughter and popcorn as we enjoyed Frozen. Thank you to the Scouts for a great Term 1 and the Leaders look forward to strong participation and support from Scouts and parents for the activities that are coming up in Term 2 and Term 3.

## What's Coming Up..

Scouts and Parents should have the following key activities on their calendars:

### Term 2

- Scout Hike (May)
- Vivid Festival (May)
- Jamborette (June)

### Term 3

- State Rally (July)
- Practice Comp Camp (August)
- Comp Camp (September)

Farewell Message from Hawkeye.....

I was introduced to the Scouting movement as a result of my son attending Cubs at 1st Ermington and I was extremely fortunate to be able to learn about being an Assistant Cub Leader and then Assistant Scout Leader due to the dedication of a small band of parents that choose to wear the blue shirt. To these people I say a very big thank you. Your commitment to the movement and the kids that come each week is second to none. We are completely surrounded by technology and it's nice to know that there is a place where children can enjoy and experience what the outdoors has to offer. I leave with many fond memories and great friendships and I look forward to dropping in now and again to say hi.....

Yours in Scouting Hawkeye.....

