

**Report of the Chair**  
**Brooklyn Scouts Joint Parent Leaders Committee**  
**AGM, November 27<sup>th</sup> 2013**  
**Brooklyn Scout Hall, Harrison St, Wellington**

Another year has flown by since the last AGM. Our Group is flourishing with membership numbers staying high in all sections across the year. Our Kea section maintains numbers around 8, Cubs are around 28, Scouts are strong at 19 and with the merger of the 4 Venturer units, we now host 11 Venturers in our premises.

Our Leaders are what makes our Group, and we have had more leaders join throughout the year. We welcome Andrew Simes (Scout Leader), David Thornburrow (Cub & Kea Leader) and Oliver Mander (Venturer Leader) to the Group, complementing Duane Stewart (Keas & Cubs), Richard Niven (Cubs), Sue Deveraux (Cubs), Denise Church (Scouts), Bob Bevan-Smith (Scouts), Terry Poll (Scouts & Venturers), and Vic Scott (Venturers) and Gavin McGlashan (Group Leader). This fantastic bunch continue to put together a comprehensive plan of section activities, challenges and camps throughout the year – well done team!

Our Committee also has had great support over the year too, which has enabled great progression on a number of fronts. In particular the efforts of Jenny Smith, Gillian Boyes, Donald Clark, Rex Collet, Mel Hare, Erina Papp along with leaders Bob Bevan-Smith, Terry Poll, Gavin McGLashan, Denise Church, Sue Deveraux, Oliver Mander, Andrew Simes, David Thornburrow and Duane Stewart. A special thanks to Donald Clark who left the group last month for an international relocation, whose contribution over the last two years was nothing less than superb. The achievements of the Committee have been full on and include such things as:

- Development of new joiner packs
- Reconciliation of membership lists and subscription payments
- Several fundraisers – see later section.
- Activities for the Brooklyn Showcase event
- Undertaking the hall upgrade project – see later section.

Also, governance and process of the Committee has improved with the development of:

- Improved treasury record keeping and report automation
- Development of an Advanced Payment Policy for payment for funding activity expenses in advance of activity fees coming in.
- A Delegated Authority Policy for group expenditure
- A Financial Assistance Policy for disadvantage youth
- Hall Leasing guidelines
- Our existing policies and processes, such as fee setting and budgeting continue to serve us well throughout the year.

Our finances are in good shape. Our subscription levels are set to cover the ever increasing cost of insurance, along with the national association fees. On top of this, we hold a significant amount of retained funds for our jamboree fundraising and hall upgrade costs.

Every three years, the highlight of the Scouting calendar, the Jamboree comes around. This year the jamboree will be held in Fielding, and at the start of the year, the group set an ambitious fundraising target of \$15,000 to go towards the fees of scouts and leaders to attend this event. A combination of fundraising and grants (listed below) has seen us raise approximately \$16,000. Exceeding our target represents a great effort by the Group, its parents and the members.

- Stadium bar tending – 50% of all funds earned direct to the Jamboree fund. We have undertaken eight events throughout the year, with more to come.
- Sausage sizzles at Bunning's – these have been earning circa \$400 a time and our youth have contributed greatly to this.
- Pride and Prejudice – this sell-out fundraiser netted \$1356 – a fantastic effort.
- First Aid Kit fundraiser
- Strike bowling fundraiser
- Infinity Foundation – a grant of \$5,000 for Jamboree was welcomed by the Group

The Group activities continue to be numerous and of great enjoyment to our youth. Camps and tramps at Brookfields, Otaki, the Kaweka's, Powell Hut, Saywells, along with events and activities such as mudslides, ski trips, the Gang Show, Ice Skating, Jamboree On The Air, walking around town with some chairs and a form, and some mammoth walks out to the South Coast. There would have been more activities had the weather played ball! We have continued to contribute to our community through participation in Anzac Day, Poppy Sales, community clean-ups and many more. You can read more about what we get up to on our wonderful website at <http://brooklynscouts.org.nz/>

Our Hall Upgrade project has started off with great gusto throughout the year. Led by parent Rex Collet, we have developed a multistage plan which touches on the entire hall, both inside and out. Late last year, we received a generous grant of \$10,000 from the RSA for contribution towards our hall. This was topped up with \$10,000 of our own funds and work commenced on the exterior. During April, a number of volunteers along with the aid of scaffolding scraped, primed and painted the western and southern exterior walls of the hall (being those walls that were the highest and had not been touched in many years). While the scaffolding was up, we repaired the rotten window frames, broken glass, broken downpipes and any other maintenance that we could do. We now have a much tidier looking building and have had many comments from the community and the council about our achievements. During the year, we applied for and received grants from the Infinity Foundation and Four Winds for \$5,000 and \$4,000 respectively for contribution to our hall upgrade. Starting November, we commenced work on stage two, which is to strip out entirely the basement and to strengthen the structure, insulate, reline, rewire and rebuild the quartermaster store and turn the space into a more useable and friendly space, particularly for our growing Venturer unit. Combined with this, Rex Collet and Michael Veneer have worked to update and renew our lease for the land from the Wellington City Council. A key modification is to extend the leased area from what was previously the footprint of the hall, to now include the paths along both sides of the hall and the area

down to the fence adjacent to the Brooklyn Community Centre. Upon completion of the basement, we will progress to the kitchen and bathroom areas.

Throughout the year there have been many smaller jobs undertaken, including replacement of roof ridging and flashings, installation of tie points around the hall, replacement of spouting after our windy storm in June, amongst other things.

We also saw the council remove the old toilet block adjacent to the hall, which removes a significant hazard, and opens up further options for our grounds around the hall.

In closing, it is people that make our group as successful and progressive as it is. We have a great bunch of Leaders who continue to work passionately for the benefit of our youth. We also have a great amount of support from parents and families of youth in helping out at fundraisers, activities, camps, working bees and hall upgrade work. Without your support, we would not be as successful as we are.

It is exciting to see the group grow in strength from year to year and long may this continue. The year ahead looks just as exciting.

Regards

Chris Ewers

November 2013