

Endeavour Venturers

Venturer Activity Report – November 2013

It has been a solid start to the new Venturer Unit started in early 2013, with much of the focus centred on the development of core activities for the Venturers to maintain membership and encourage new growth.

Membership

As of November 2013, we currently have 11 Venturers regularly attending meetings and/or events. Critically, the Unit is now seen as sustainable by members from participating Groups, allowing access to a key “feeder pool” from the participating Groups.

Current membership comprises input from all Groups except Island Bay. There is more opportunity here to ensure that the Unit markets itself appropriately to the underlying Scout Groups, to ensure awareness of the future options Scouts have as they progress through their own Groups.

Contact Name	Underlying Group
Caitlin Veneer	Brooklyn
Augusta Collett	Brooklyn
AJ Gegan	Eastern Bays
Sam dellabarca	Eastern Bays
Grayson Poll	Brooklyn
Jack Roberts	Brooklyn
Evan Carter	Kelburn
Kris Devereux	Brooklyn
Laura O'Neill	Brooklyn
Kacee Simpson	Brooklyn
Emerald Devereux	Brooklyn

Areas of focus for the next 3 months: These include the development of induction packs and the issuing of invoices for fees. Our register of current membership is in good shape, with some further work required to integrate with existing Brooklyn Group administration processes. Of course, we will always be seeking new members to join our Unit!

Governance, Administration and Treasury

The key development during the year was the formation of the Unit, its founding principles and the formation of a governance structure and associated terms of reference.

These are attached as a short addendum to this document.

The Unit also established its own bank account during this period, including a reconciliation of funds carried forward from the former Brooklyn Unit. Opening funds of \$375 were augmented through the sale of chocolates as a fundraising activity, raising around \$800. Self-funded activities (such as the Kawekas tramp) broadly broke even through the last 6 months. The current balance of the Endeavour Unit bank account is \$1,050.

Note that the bank account is managed as a ‘sub-account’ of the wider Brooklyn Group, although it has its own signatories and is not considered within the wider Brooklyn Group reporting.

Areas of focus for the next 3 months: Registration of the Endeavour Venturer Unit name with NZ Scouting, together with scarf design and badge. These are currently being designed by the Unit ready for submission by the end of this year or early next.

Activities

The Unit membership has been active in planning its activities for each term, with the assistance of leaders. The Term Activity Plan is posted on the Unit website, with day-to-day management of activities managed via the Unit's Facebook page. In general, each activity is assigned a Unit Member.

While there has been some focus on badge work, this remains a key challenge to ensure the ongoing success of the Unit, in providing the Unit membership with some options in achieving both the Venturer Badges as well as Duke of Edinburgh qualifications.

Activities over the last 6 months have included an ice-skating night, a poker night, a games night, Kawekas Tramp, cooking dinner and 'fun with forms' – to name a few. Note that Term 4 has been relatively quiet to accommodate study needs of the Unit members during exams. An ongoing association with Brookfield has also been established, with the Unit supporting the maintenance of that key facility on some weekends.

Term 1 2014 planning is currently underway, but will include a night drop and a Tramp at the least!

We expect an ongoing improvement in both the number and quality of activities as the membership continues to build, but feel we have had a solid start in relatively short timeframes.

Areas of focus for the next 3 months: Better linkage of activities to badge sign-offs, ensuring that all members possess the Venturer Award Scheme book. Understand the key projects / aims of the participating Scout Groups, to ensure appropriate support by Unit members.

Facilities & Equipment

The Unit has been well supported with equipment provided by Brooklyn Group, but also by individual members. The major development currently underway is the renovation of the Brooklyn Scout Hall basement – which will become the Endeavour Venturers den. This renovation will see new flooring, walls, and doors opening onto a new deck. Unit members have played their part in supporting the working bees so far, and we look forward to their continued participation.

We have even secured the donation of 2 couches and a flatscreen TV to 'support the Venturers in achieving their badgework' ☺!

Overall, the aim is to ensure that we create a space where Unit members want to spend time, relaxing with their friends and forming the close bonds that represent the ethos of our Venturer Unit.

Areas of focus for the next 3 months: Finish the basement!

Oliver Mander
Venturer Section Leader
November 2013