

Cleveland Scout Group

ARP May 18 2020

Group Leader Report

Andy Hall

Well, this is a year we shall remember!

About this time last year, we started building our wonderful Den, with the project capably led by Doug Ross and, of course, we moved in in August and celebrated with the opening ceremony in October last year. Thanks to Doug, we have the best Den in Australia and are looking forward to many years Scouting in and sharing it with the community.

I must give a mention to our Phoenix leader members, those who saw us through the fire, the recovery and to the opening of the Den. Thank you Julie, Paul, Tom, Neil, Owen and Rae, the committee Doug and Kerryann and councillor Wendy Bogliari (did I miss anybody?).

In the year, five new leaders Tara Froelich and Tammy Becker (Joeys), Kaylee Chidley (Cubs), Tam Hill and Stewart Miller (Scouts) joined us and we sadly lost Rochelle Voller (Joeys) when she changed jobs and Jess Dean (Cubs) when she transferred to Rochedale.

Our youth numbers are very strong, with all sections being full, or very close to it. This gives us currently 9 Joeys, 23 Cubs, 23 Scouts and 8 Venturers, giving 63 youth members. We also have 18 adult members, giving a total active membership of 81. This is a fantastic, healthy Group, but ironically gives us a problem with growth and this will have to be managed with new sections in the coming years.

We started to get some momentum for rebuilding the Group with the planned trivia night (was to be Anzac day) and leader build meeting in early March. These plans have been somewhat disrupted, but we are always looking for opportunities to grow the leader team. There will be a new Group calendar coming out when we start back, hopefully in early Term III.

Group committee functioned very well this year with the ever dependable Kerryann and Doug running the business side of the Group very successfully. It is Kerryann we have to thank for the rebuild not leading us to go broke. With the Rosses and Julie Sutton on the committee, meetings have been a pleasure. I look forward to working with them in the coming year and welcome Leigh to the committee for the new year.

Scouting at home has gone very well and I commend the leaders for adapting so quickly and the youth members for learning to work in new ways. Hopefully, we shall be back face-to-face next term. I have attached the latest Scouting schedule to get back to meeting face-to-face, but of course this depends upon bigger things than us.

I think Scouting will be different when we go back – maybe (or maybe not) we shall stick to Zoom for some leader meetings so leaders with small kids can attend easier and we don't all have to get to the Den. Maybe some section meetings will also stay on Zoom. Time will tell. I look forward to watching the journey and being able to drink tea with the leaders again!

In the meantime, stay well, keep Scouting on and start planning those hikes for Term III!

