



## 1<sup>st</sup> Hornsby Heights Scout Group

[www.1hscouts.org.au](http://www.1hscouts.org.au)



On behalf of the Hornsby Heights Scout Group, I would like to welcome you the start of 2008.

This year is the **Centenary of Scouting in Australia**. You may notice the commemorative badge in the top right hand corner of this letter. There will be a number of additional activities in support of this event with a focal point in August.

A Calendar of Events will soon be available on the Website. Please update your family calendars and ensure the dates indicated are made available by you to participate in the events planned around the Centenary and the Group.

### Leaders

This year's Section Leaders remain the same as previous:

<b>Group Leader</b>	Richard Hughes-Narborough	9476 3184
<b>Venturer Leader</b>	Greg Clarke	9476 3961
<b>Scout Leader</b>	Alan Todd	9477 1129
<b>Cub Leader</b>	David Sutton	9476 6382
<b>Joey Leader</b>	Liz Petts	9940 3229

Wendy Harvey (Cub Section) will be leaving the Group before Easter this year and all the Sections need at least one more Leader to work effectively.

If any parent would like to support the Group by becoming a Leader, or regular Parent Helper – To learn how to develop young people, as well as yourself, and to have a great time, please contact me or speak to one of the other Leaders or Committee members.

### Fees

The **Group Membership Fee** for 2008 is to remain at **\$115.00** payable at the first meeting night.

**Term Fees** are **\$30.00** for each term.

You have the option of paying Term Fees for the full year or by the term.

**Note:** Members who are not financial before the next Membership Census (end of February) will be resigned from the register because we cannot afford to cover unpaid fees to the State Office.

Please speak to a Leader, or the Treasurer, if you have a problem with meeting this deadline.

### Duty of Care

From time to time, we will ask parents to complete a new Membership form (Y1), including those who have transferred from another Group, to ensure we have the most current information about you and your child, together with a medical information form.

Each parent is also required to complete a Prohibited Employment Declaration form (M5).

Should these not be returned, when requested, we will have no choice but to resign the child concerned, thank you.

This year an additional document "Parents Child Protection Guide" is also included for your information. This is a seriously taken obligation by the Scouting Movement.

### Group Activities

Hornsby Heights Group usually organise 2 Family Camps each year for Members and their families.

The first will be at Nords Wharf (Lake Macquarie) from the 7th to 9th of March 2008. This camp is always a great event for the kids. They get to go in the canoes, prussik up trees, get dirty in the commando course, make crafty things and have a great campfire usually led by our Akela, campfire leader extraordinaire, David Sutton. The camp is about an hour north of here and many people have been able to come and go for domestic or other reasons in the past, and still enjoy the campfire event on Saturday night. Cost is around \$6 per person per night. The second camp is usually at Crosslands in November.

## **Fundraising**

This is important for Group finances. We focus on 2 major fundraisers, an Easter Chocolate drive this term, in time for Easter, and in December, we sell Christmas Trees. We need your help with these activities, so please don't be shy, put your hand up to assist.

## **Uniform**

Please note that Scouting is a uniformed movement. A new uniform was introduced in July 2004 and we are still in the process of moving to the new standard. Uniforms can be purchased from Snowgum stores at Hornsby, Kent St. Sydney, Rhodes or Parramatta, Mail Order on 1800 811 312, or on line at [www.snowgum.com.au](http://www.snowgum.com.au). For youth members wearing the new shirt, check with your Section Leader regarding the other uniform requirements.

## **Committee & Parent Roles**

Hornsby Heights has a strong Group Committee. Most Groups now have a policy for compulsory parent involvement. This gets parents involved in more activity with the Group and shares the workload more evenly. We hope our families will continue to volunteer assistance.

### **Important areas where you can help are as Parent Helpers, at Working bees or Fundraising.**

As a Parent helper you will get to have some fun and quality time with your children and their friends.

Working Bees tackle the ongoing maintenance tasks in and around the hall. These can also be quite social occasions! We also ask all families to take a turn on the Hall Cleaning Roster.

Fundraising ensures that the Group remains financially viable and is able to purchase equipment and undertake various activities. Your involvement will have a direct or indirect effect on the Group's fees and charges. Fundraising subsidises Group costs, it is as simple as that!!

We would love to have more on the Committee. You can join any time, for whatever contribution you can make, so please let one of the Leaders or Committee Members know what you can do to help\*. The current Office Bearers are:

<b>Chairman</b>	Jonathan Hicks	9476 5562
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	John Cormio	9476 6552
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rosemary Forbes-Smith	9476 6949
<b>Secretary</b>	Joe Fonseca	9476 5464
<b>Quartermaster</b>	Wim Brinkhof	9987 0879
<b>Fund Raising Coordinator</b>	Nicole Judge	9482 4242
<b>Job Week Coordinator</b>	Kim Pinnock	9940 3320
<b>Publicity</b>	Melinda Sexton	9477 3638
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Uniform</b>	Virginia O'Brien	9477 7478

### **\*Committee help is required for the following:**

Assistance for the Quartermaster, Fund Raiser, Social/Camp Coordinator, or just as a general Committee member.

Can you help with any of these roles?

This Group is working on increasing membership, which is against the trend for both Scouting and other youth organisations.

Let's get behind our kids and make this an even better family orientated group. Remember, our Scouting Group is run on the strength of the parents, either as Leaders, Committee Members or Parent Helpers. The more families who join in, the easier the workload becomes and greater fun can be enjoyed. It also keeps the fees down!

Yours in Scouting

**Richard Hughes-Narborough**  
Group Leader