

1ST LEICHHARDT SCOUTS
145 BALMAIN ROAD
LEICHHARDT 2040
PO BOX 155
LEICHHARDT 2040

1ST LEICHHARDT SCOUT GROUP FOUNDED 1908

EXCERPTS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE GROUP FROM 1915 TO 1938

(Transcription of records collated by Allan Songberg,
Regional Adviser, South Metropolitan Region)

PART 1

1915

The Court of Honour was reorganised in 1915 and minutes of meetings kept in one book from then until 1929. The first Court of Honour held in 1909 only lasted a couple of months. It started again in 1911 with all members of the troop attending and making decisions on camps and parades. Later all business was discussed and only patrol leaders, their seconds and scoutmasters attending.

Extracts from meeting 16/8/1915 held in troops meeting room
Renwick Lane Leichhardt.

"Mr Coutts stated that patrols now stood:"

Curlews 8 members Lions 9 members Rosellas 7 members
Kangaroos 7 " Wolves 5 " Stags 10

Extracts 6 Sept 1915

"It was finally agreed that the arrangements for the monthly patrol competition be:

200 marks for skirmishing, 200 for Scout Law
100 for knot tying and 100 marks for neatness of turnout."

"At the forthcoming camp it was decided to put on a display of signalling, cooking and hut building."

Secretary Stan W Seaberg

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1916

Court of Honour Minutes

11 January 1916

The Trek Cart

"We had a snifter offer from Stan Seaberg to build a new trek cart if we supply the necessary materials. His offer was accepted with thanks. The new cart to cost roughly £3.10.0. D.S.M. Coutts was given power to sell the old cart for no less than ten shillings."

Acting Secretary

D.J. McDermott

Secretary N Wakeham

The Trek Cart became a very necessary part of the Troop's equipment. It had centre pole with a cross bar in front and there were ropes attached providing for a team of eight to help pulling it. Owen Patching remembers that in 1916 the cart was loaded with large bell tents and camp gear and pulled from ~~Petersham~~ ^{Petersham} to the Como camping ground. On another occasion the Trek Cart was taken from Campbelltown to Bulli. The cart was still in use in the 1920's for local transport jobs and remained a favourite display item for many years. It could be readily taken apart, carried over an obstacle and re-assembled all in a matter of a few minutes.



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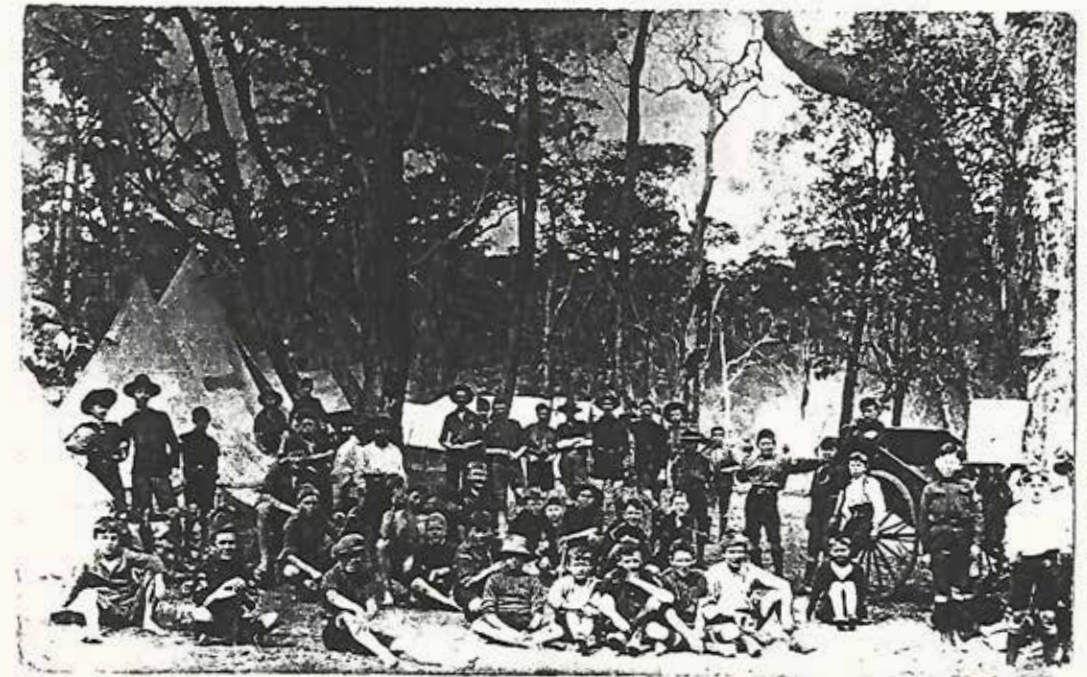
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Como Camp 1916

1917

Court of Honour Minutes

15 May 1917

Proposals were made for a week-end bivouac of either Como or Buffalo Creek. The latter was carried. Each member to take own provisions.

The next business was in connection with a field telegraph and wireless sets becoming into the Troops work. It was decided to have a later discussion on the matter.

A thrilling argument arose about the unsuitable items that were put on at the Concert on the previous Friday.

Secretary A.E. Thirkettle

14 August 1917

Excuses for non attendance at District Meeting were handed in:

Wolf Patrol: Leader: neuralgia, Second: sickness in family

Excuses accepted.

Rosella Patrol: Leader: Late home from work, Second: nil.

25 points taken off competition

Curlew Patrol & Leader: toothache, Second: no excuse

25 points taken off competition

21st August 1917

It was decided to ask the Parents' Committee for camping equipment as follows

7 lamps

9 tomohawks

9 billy cans

1 roll of lashing

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Uniforms

At first scouts used their own ingenuity for a uniform but soon a white cricketer's shirt and a black naval scarf was adopted along with a broadbrimmed cadet hat. Other accessories included a white lanyard (cord) with a whistle on the end, a clasp knife and a leather money pouch worn on a belt. The scout stave (staff) was considered indispensable. It was marked in feet and inches and was said to be used for keeping a crowd back, making a stretcher or flag pole, keeping off a dog and for all kinds of racks at camps. Staff drill was a regular activity on meeting nights and was carried on marches. The popular cry from boys in the street was 'Here come the broomstick warriors.'

The scarf (called a muffler) was originally a square of material folded diagonally. Worn around the neck, it was knotted in the front, and the two corners had tiny knots to remind the scout of his 'good deed for the day.' It had a very practical use for bandaging fractures and as a sling.

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Court of Honour extract
2 March 1920

"Fairfax Competition. The points gained by the team were examined and discussed. It was decided that taking everything into consideration the team had not done so badly by becoming third. Points gained: Knots 96. Patrol Drill 89 Scout Law 100. Signalling 87. Turn Out 97 Staff drill 89 First Aid theory 76 practical 96"
Secretary D. S. Thomas

The Fairfax Competition always maintained a high standard and the patrol leaders were usually around 18 years of age. Rover scouts had not yet started in Leichhardt.



Mess table 1921 Camp.

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Court of Honour Extract

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Camping and bushwalking have remained a major activity of 1st Leichhardt. Every Holiday Week-end and at Easter and Christmas has found the scouts under canvas. In the early years the popular camping grounds were Como, Coalcliff and Stanwell Park. Later Waterfall (Camp Coutts) and Campbelltown (The Woolwash). A regular walk was from Mossvale to Nowra staying overnight at Fitzroy Falls, Kangaroo Valley and at Camberwarra Look-out. Rover Scouts did more adventurous hikes over Mount Solitary (Blue Mountains) and through Burratorang Valley (now a dam). Several parties canoed down the Shoalhaven River from Tallong.

Before about 1924 the whole of the Camp's cooking was done on a central open fire using kerosene tins and large boiling pans. The food was then distributed to messes of about 8. There was always plenty of food. Rolled oats or Grains, (these were pre-cornflake days) boiled eggs, stewed steak, stewed chops, stewed sausages. Tins of corned beef, salmon, herrings and tomato sauce, and sardines. (Baked beans & spaghetti came later) For sweets there were prunes and rice, dates, stewed or fresh fruit plus thick slices of a tin loaf of bread with jam, honey or golden syrup.

The camp routine was announced by bugle calls. "Reveille" (Get out of bed. You lazy head) "Assembly" "Fall in A. Fall in B" "Come to the Cook House Door Boys" "Pick em Up Hot Potatoes" etc. Washing up was always done in the river, using sand to get the grease off.

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Parents visit Camp at Campbelltown 1920
Driver Les Andrews



Leichhardt Boy Scouts Christmas Concert

— WILL BE GIVEN ON —
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9th, 1920, AT 8 P.M.

— IN THE —
TOWN HALL, LEICHHARDT

PART ONE

Overture

THIS CORNER—
A. BEDWELL, Tambo
W. CARR, Bones

INTERLOCUTOR—
J. GERAGHTY

The Regal Orchestra

THIS CORNER—
Tambo, A. BEDWELL
Bells, J. CARR

CHORUS BY COMPANY

Grand Camp Scene

1st Leichhardt Boy Scouts

(Morning and Evening.)

This Scene shows the Sleeping Camp, the Sentry, Reveille, the Waking Camp, Morning Camp, the Day's Work Begins, Evening Around the Camp Fire, Song and Story. During this Scene the following will perform:—G. Noakes, L. Aston, E. Smith, E. Rochester, W. Nichols, and E. Johnson.

Banjo Selection

Mr. and Mrs. W. PENN

Display

1st LEICHHARDT WOLF CUBS

A. BEDWELL

Comedian

Song

Mr. W. CARR

First Aid Display

1st LEICHHARDT BOY SCOUTS

(Showing the difference between Trained and Untrained.)

Violin Solo

MISS HAZEL TYTHRLIGH (Gold Medallist)

W. BENARD

In Novel Experiments of Magic

PART TWO

Selection

The Regal Orchestra

2nd ANNANDALE MINISTRELS

*D. COCKBURN

Boy King of Ragtime

A. FOSTER

The Boy Balladist

J. CARR

Our Baby

A. LANG

Clever Ballad Singer

W. CARR

The Quack Yellow

B. WALLKY

Singing Lad

A. PIGOTT

Smiling Balladist

A. BEDWELL

The Bank One

A. COXHEAD

Clever Ballad Singer

J. GERAGHTY

Blountianist

F. PHILLIPSON

Singer of Homer's

R. BEDWELL

Komic Kard

Tickets—Front Seats, 1s 6d. Back Seats, 1s
Children Half Price

J. McKEE Printer 21 Creek Street Forest Lodge

1921

Court of Honour extracts.

31 May 1921 Canteen. It was decided that the Lions would have the canteen management for the month of June and that the canteen would be kept under lock and key.

Secretary D. S. Thomas

The selling of cocoa, cordial and lollies was a regular feature of the troop for many years. Responsibility for running it was keenly contested.

13 Dec 1921

The first meeting of the Court of Honour held in the new hall Balmain Rd Leichhardt.

The whole troop had assembled at its Club Room in the lane off Palace Street Petersham where it had been meeting since October 1915. They then marched with the band along Parramatta Road and up Balmain Road to their own Hall.

Extract

It was reported that troops from Stanmore Annandale, Petersham and Leichhardt will be camping at Campbelltown this Christmas.

Chas Swanson
Assistant Secretary

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Joe Hunter
acting Secretary

The Bugle Band.

Buglers & Drummers were always at meetings, parades and camps from 1912 or earlier. The tradition of a march around the local streets always attracted new recruits. One of our finest scouts Harry Reynold describes how he persuaded his father to let him tag along behind the marchers in 1921 and join the troop as a cub

Mr Coutts, although not a player, knew all the bugle calls & drum beats and encouraged many to learn. Some outstanding players were Bob Muir, Joey Hunter and George Giles and later George Mason & Fred Gunner. Fred played the reveille at 6.00 AM every morning at the Bradfield Camporee & Jamboree 1938
2nd Australian Jamboree at Bradfield Park, Lindfield
December 1938 - January 1939

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