

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

1ST LEICHHARDT SCOUT GROUP FOUNDED 1908

**RECORDS OF JAMES X COUTTS, SCOUT LEADER AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONER,
LEICHHARDT DISTRICT AND RECORDS OF 1ST LEICHHARDT SCOUTS,
FROM 1908 TO 1938**

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

PART 1



Camp Ramsey's Bush

THE BEGINNING

An article published in the Sydney "Sunday Times" of 28 June 1908, concerning the Hero of Mafeking, Colonel Robert Baden-Powell and his youth movement the Boy Scouts, created interest among the boys of Sydney Scout Patrols led by boys sprang up. By the end of 1908 the newly formed "League of Boy Scouts" had eleven registered troops. 1st City, 1st Cleveland Street School, 1st Glebe, 1st Hurstville, 1st Leichhardt, 1st Mosman, 1st Neutral Bay, 1st Petersham, 1st Redfern, 1st Toongabbie and 1st Woollahra. (Paddington added in 1911)

Hurstville, Leichhardt, Petersham and Woollahra are still in existence.

1ST LEICHHARDT

The 1st Leichhardt Kangaroo Patrol was formed in August 1908, by some boys of the suburb, led by Alec McMillen aged about 16 years. He was the first Patrol Leader, the Headquarters an old shed in James St., rented weekly for two shillings and sixpence.

In December 1908, J X COUTTS one Sunday afternoon encountered a number of boys camping out in a bush hut of their own construction. With them was their first Scoutmaster Mr A J Biddles. This camp was at "RAMSEY'S BUSH" now the suburb of Haberfield.

At the end of 1908 the troop moved to a new club room in Norton St., rented at four shillings weekly. Only remaining their until Jan. 1911.

1909

The Sydney of 1909 was an ideal city of scouting; there was plenty of bushland close to every suburb. The boys of this generation know not radio, television, aeroplanes or moving pictures, cars were only just making their appearance and boys still went to bed in the old night shirt.

J X Coutts joined in April and became leader of the Wallaroo Senior Patrol.

In June, the newly formed Newcastle patrol came on a visit to Sydney, they stayed at Leichhardt with SM Biddles. They also attended the first concert for Boy Scouts at the Sydney Town Hall on 7th June.

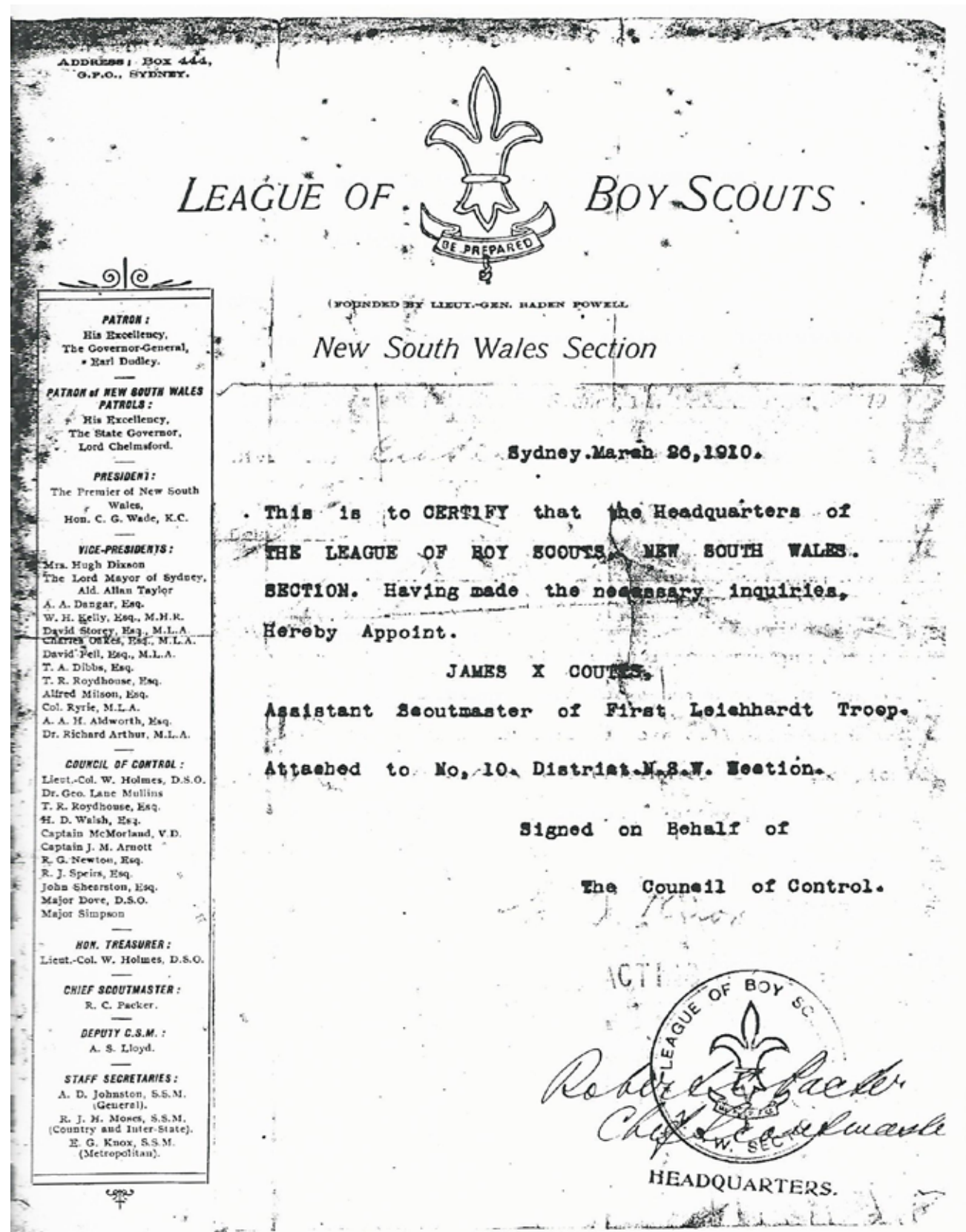
King Edward VII had taken a great interest in the Movement, and to show his appreciation of what had been done, General Baden-Powell was elevated to Knighthood during October.

This year saw the introduction of the Second Class and the first eight Proficiency badges. It was a wonderful day for the troop when the first badges were presented at Lyne Park, Rose Bay on 15th November by the Governor Sir H Rawson.

Badges were presented to:-

V Styles	1st Petersham
A McMillan	1st Leichhardt
W Harris	"
K Johnstone	"
C Walton	"
A Dunn	"

All the above served in World War 1, the last three being killed.



1910

The decision by the Commonwealth Government to introduce compulsory cadet training in 1910 for all boys over twelve years of age, had a crippling effect on the infant Boy Scout Movement. Overnight, it became difficult to predict the future of Scouting.

Some Troops folded entirely while others dwindled to mere Patrols. Administrators of the League of Boy Scouts called a special meeting to discuss the crisis; some favoured disbandment, others held a more optimistic viewpoint. The motion to carry on which kept the movement alive at this critical stage, was moved by Mr J X COUTTS, speaking in public for the first time.

King Edward VII, gave his assent to the King's Scout Badge. The King died in May and Scouts greatly mourned his demise, for Edward VII was the King who gave the Movement Royal Patronage.

1st Leichhardt in 1910, took part in a despatch-carrying contest from Sydney to Bathurst. Leichhardt Scouts had to cover many miles and finally had to swim the Nepean River at Penrith.

The League of Boy Scouts appointed James X Coutts, Assistant Scoutmaster of 1st Leichhardt 26 March 1910.

The second Australian Award of the Silver Wolf was gazetted on the 5th June, to A McMillen who gained our first King Scout Badge.

1911

J X Coutts appointed Scoutmaster, 1st Leichhardt, No 10 District 6 Division NSW Section, on the resignation of SM Biddles.

The Troop moved to Renwick Lane off Norton St., in Feb. the rent two Shillings and six pence weekly. It was decided to form a branch troop at Lilyfield to be known as West Leichhardt, but keeping the same officers for both Troops.

August saw a Special Appointment SM Coutts to Senior Scoutmaster.

An event that happened in 1911, and worthy of mention was the hike held by

1st Leichhardt from Como to Wollongong. It was the first one on a big scale, with about 30 boys taking part. Most of the newspapers had their reporters waiting for the scouts at every little village en route, sending Press Telegrams, which were duly printed next day showing the progress of the scouts. At Clifton, the local area officer, thinking they were a new type of soldier, invited the oldest boys into the local pub for a spot, but naturally they declined.

It seems amusing to recall the method adopted for carrying kit. Each boy procured a sugar bag, loaded his gear into it, and carried it on his back. Rucksacks were unknown.

A Mounted Patrol was formed under Les Andrews, and was to escort BP on his visit the following year.

1st Mosman were deregistered in 1911, for continuing to wear their white jerseys against the orders of headquarters and were not admitted again until the end of 1912, when they adopted shirts. This was a questionable want of tact on the part of someone, especially as another Troop 1st Glebe continued to wear jerseys until 1920.

LEAGUE OF BOY SCOUTS. NEW SOUTH WALES SECTION.

SCOUTMASTERS WARRANT.

PROMOTION=;

This is to Certify that Assistant Scoutmaster
James X. Coutts, is Hereby appointed Scoutmaster
of the First Leichhardt Troop. Boy Scouts,

(No, 10 District.) 6. Division. N. S. W.


Section.

The Appointment to date from January, 1st. 1911 .

Signed on Behalf of,

The Council OF Control

January 10. 1911.


Robert A. Peck
Chief Scoutmaster
HEADQUARTERS

N. S. W. SECTION

SYDNEY.

Box. 444 G. P. O.

HEADQUARTERS

SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

Extract from report on Inspection of 1st Leichhardt Troop Aug 1911

D. C. S. M. Gray and the Hon. Staff Secretary MR. A. D. Johnston Report
having visited and inspected the 1st Leichhardt Troop.


During the evening several branches of Scoutcraft were gone
through. The members deserving credit for the manner in which
they carried out their various duties ,

There were 27 on parade out of a membership of 30. IN the troop
are 166 badges. Two Silver Wolves, six King Scouts, and 14 All Round
Scouts.


The Chief Scoutmaster on reading the report of the Troop Orderd
that S. M. Coutts be at once promoted to the rank of SENIOR SCOUTMASTER
as a recogniton of the SPLENDID work done in connection with the
LEICHHARDT TROOP.


APPOINTMENT

S. M. COUTTS (LEICHHARDT) to be senior scoutmaster
Dated AUGUST 1ST 1911


Robert A. Peck
HEADQUARTERS

Boy Scouts' Association
(Incorporated by Royal Charter)
AUSTRALIAN SECTION.





LEAGUE OF BOY SCOUTS, NEW SOUTH WALES SECTION. AUSTRALIA.

Box 444.
G.P.O.
SYDNEY N.S.W.

September 25 1912.

PROMOTION


DISTRICT SCOUTMASTERS, WARRANT.

This certifies that Mr. James Xavier. Coutts. SCOUTMASTER,
of the FIRST LEICHHARDT TROOP. ,ANDb SENIOR SCOUTMASTER
of Number SIX Division Boy Scouts, of the New South Wales.
Section of the LEAGUE OF BOY SCOUTS.

Atthe last meeting of the COUNCIL OF CONTROL, ofthe above
Section Was Appointed DISTRICT SCOUTMASTER. of number six
Division in place of Mr. G. ATKINS. (RESIGNED).

The appointment to date from September.1st. 1912.

Signed on Behalf of the Council of Control.
SEPTEMBER 25. th. 1912.


 HEADQUARTERS.

1912

The event which all Boy Scouts had looked forward to ever since the formation of the Movement at last took place ----- the meeting with their Chief Scout, Sir Robert S.S. Baden-Powell, C.B., K.C. V.O.

BP arrived in Sydney in May 1912, the Scout Bugle Band sounded the General Salute as BP stepped from the train. He then inspected the Guard of Honour of 120 picked Boy Scouts, all with staves and haversack on back.

The Chief then pass on to the Governor's State carriage where the mounted Boy Scout escort under Les Andrews led the procession along George St., to Sydney Town Hall. Every boy in the escort was a good rider and mounted a good horse.

The show our Chief that we could appreciate the natural scouting country surrounding the city of Sydney, and to demonstrate that the out of door activities were not being overlooked, a bush camp was held for the weekend. The spot chosen was the hill to the south of Cook's River where Undercliffe is now a populous suburb. J Coutts met BP on this occasion.

While in Sydney BP met the forerunners of the Girl Guides, some 800 city and 150 country "Girl Aids" attended a gathering to meet the Chief.

[Promotion of Mr Coutts to District Scoutmaster on 1st September 1912]

"The district camp in 1912 was an even more exciting one. At that time there was an organisation known as the St George Boys Brigade. There members were armed with rifles and bayonets of French Army pattern, and on this occasion were camped next to West Sydney District.

The Boys Brigade attacked the Scout Camp, and the skirmish resulted in the Scouts capturing 30 prisoners, who were detained under guard in a tent for the rest of the night. In the morning the POWs were escorted back to their Brigade HQ, preceded by the Scout Bugle Band."

Following the Chiefs visit, it was decided to work to the English PO&R., and HQ set about forming The Boy Scouts Association of New South Wales, which would replace the League.

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THURSDAY, MAY 16th, 1912.

Under the Patronage and in the Presence of His Excellency the Governor, the Right Hon.
Lord Chalmersford, K.C.M.G., and His Worship the Lord Mayor of Sydney
and the Lady Mayoress.

Boy Scouts' Concert

WELCOME THE CHIEF SCOUT

Lt.-Gen. Sir Robert Baden-Powell,
K.C.B., K.C.V.O.

ARTISTS:

MADAME CECILIA WALDRON.
MISS DAISY SWEET.
MR. W. REGINALD GOUD.
MR. GEORGE WHITEHEAD.
MR. CYRIL MONK.
MR. DAVID BURT.
MR. JOHN CARLTON FAY.
MR. SID SHIPWAY.
MR. ERNEST TRUMAN.
THE STATE MILITARY BAND,
(Conductor, Captain Bentley)
STEINWAY GRAND PIANOFORTE.

R. C. PACKER,

Chief Scout Master.

GEORGE S. HOLBURN,

Concert Manager.

NICHOLSON'S FOR PIANOS

PROGRAMME

PART I.

1. Grand March from "La Reine de Saba" ... Gounod
STATE MILITARY BAND: CONDUCTOR CAPTAIN BENTLEY.
1. GRAND ORGANS, MR. ERNEST TRUMAN, A.R.C.O.
2. SONG ... "Sons of the Southern Sea" ... Gillott
MR. W. REGINALD GOUD.
3. VIOLIN ... (a) "Wiegenlied" ... Brahms-C. Monk
(b) "Spanish Dance" ... Sarasate
MR. CYRIL MONK.
4. SONG ... "Once in the Time of Roses" ... Corbett
MADAME CECILIA WALDRON.
5. DESCRIPTIVE FANTASIA—
"The Smithy in the Woods" ... Michaelis
SYNOPSIS.—Night; all is still. Morning breaks, 5 o'clock; the
villagers engage in prayer before beginning the day's work.
The smith at work.
STATE MILITARY-BAND and GRAND-ORGAN.
6. SONG ... "Angus McDonald" ... Reckel
MISS DAISY SWEET.
7. VIOLIN AND PIANOFORTE—
(a) "Humoreske" ... Dvorak
(b) "Liebesfreud" ... Couperin-Kreisler
(c) "Moto Perpetuo" ... Carl Bohm
DAVID BURT and JOHN CARLTON FAY.
8. SONG ... "The Young British Soldier" ... Kipling
MR. GEORGE WHITEHEAD.
(WITH CHORUS BY BOY SCOUTS.)
9. ORGAN SOLO ... "Rendezvous" ... Aletter
MR. ERNEST TRUMAN, A.R.C.O.
10. HUMOROUS SONG—
"I Was Standing on the Corner" ... Shepherd
MR. SID SHIPWAY.
11. BOY SCOUTS AND FLAG PRESENTATION.

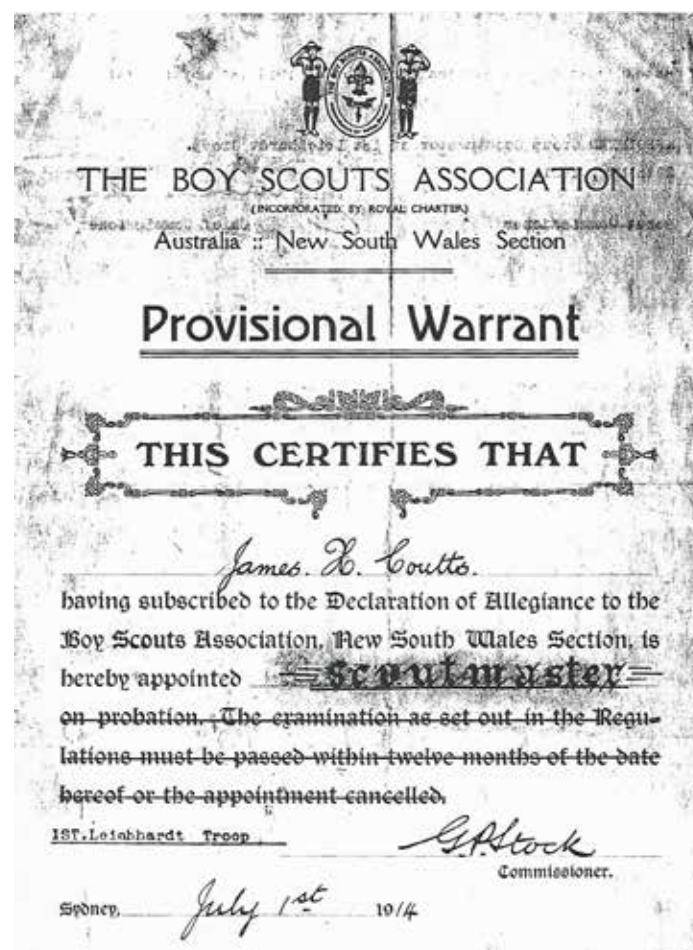
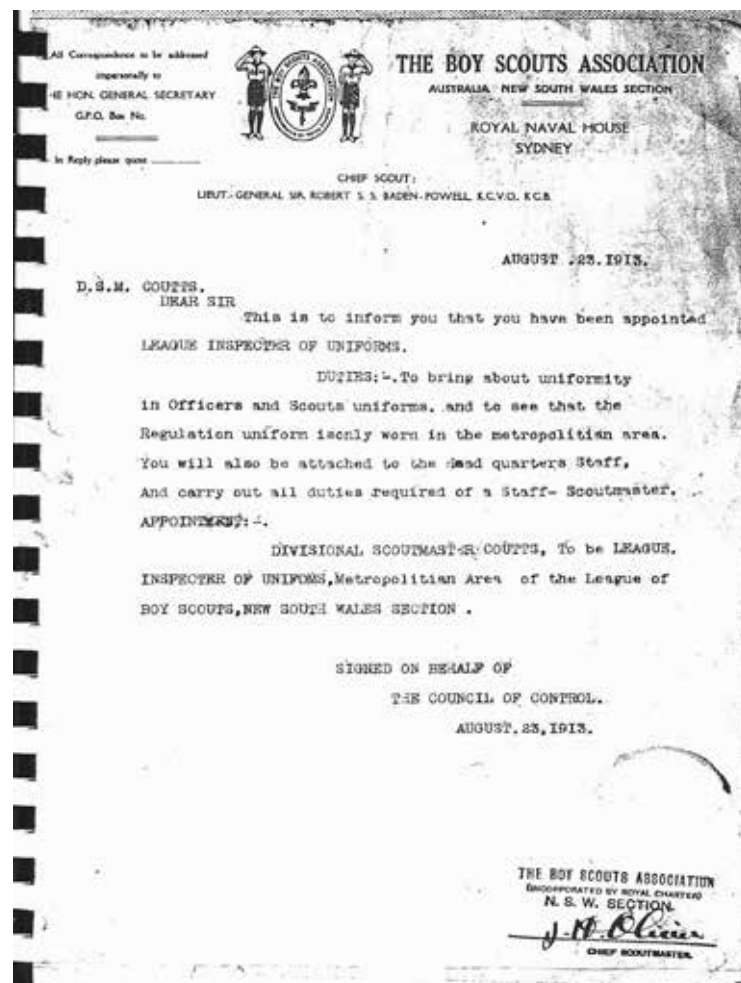
INTERVAL 5 MINUTES.

PART II.

12. FANTASIA "A Night with Sousa" ... Bentley
(DEDICATED TO THE SYDNEY PUBLIC.)
This Fantasia has been arranged to commemorate the visit of
Sousa's Band, but it would be manifestly impossible to include in a
short fantasia all the works performed by that fine combination. The
arranger has therefore endeavored to give an interesting aggrega-
tion of classical works and Sousa's own compositions, beginning
with the Tannhauser Overture (the opening piece at their first
concert), and finishing with the humoresque, "Has Anybody Here
Seen Kelly?" one of their chief humorous items.
- STATE MILITARY BAND and GRAND ORGANS.
13. SONG ... "A Song of Thanksgiving" ... Allisen
MADAME CECILIA WALDRON.
14. VIOLIN ... "Vision" ... Drelia
MR. CYRIL MONK.
15. SONG ... "Bedouin Love Song" ... Pussut
MR. W. REGINALD GOUD.
16. ORGAN SOLO "The Old Folks at Home" ... American
MR. ERNEST TRUMAN, A.R.C.O.
17. SONG ... "There's a Land" ... Allisen
MISS DAISY SWEET.
18. SONG ... "Mandalay" ... Kipling
MR. GEORGE WHITEHEAD.
19. HUMOROUS SONG "Paper Bag Cookery" ... Pelher
MR. SID SHIPWAY.
20. GRAND NATIONAL FANTASIA ... Anon.
STATE MILITARY BAND and GRAND ORGANS.

MISS GERTRUDE PALMER & MR. E. CROCKER ... Accompanists

GOD SAVE THE KING.



1913

In January, the Leichhardt and the Annandale Troops trekked from Stanwell Park to Kiama a distance of 86 km. A trek-cart constructed by the Leichhardt Troop carted the stores and equipment.

Troop Leader Henderson and SM McDermott awarded Silver Cross for life saving at Stanwell Park.

August 23rd Mr Coutts appointed League Inspector of Uniforms. To bring about uniformity in uniform.

BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

The adoption of the English "Policy, Organisation and Rules" in January 1914 and the incorporation of The Boy Scouts Association New South Wales Section in July 1914, saw the issue of the No 1 Warrant to James X Coutts as District Scoutmaster West Sydney District.

1st LEICHHARDT IS THE PROUD HOLDER OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE NO 1.

