

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 6



1920

This was a year of awards for Leichhardt.

Scout Fergie of the Stag Patrol was presented with the Scout Bronze Cross. Scoutings highest gallantry award for life saving. Fergie, dived into Leichhardt Bay and saved the life of a young man who had taken a fit while swimming. A shark was circling the man.

Scout Tickner Kangaroo Patrol was awarded the Gilt Cross for saving a child in Leichhardt Bay with considerable risk to himself.

Scoutmaster J X Coutts awarded the Silver Wolf, for service in running six Troops during the war period and for long and loyal service to the Movement. From 1909 to 1919 went from Patrol Leader to District Scoutmaster.

1st World Jamboree

Assistant Scoutmaster K McKenzie attended the Jamboree held at Olympia, London. The N.S.W. contingent comprised five leaders, one Patrol Leader and two Scouts. It was at this Jamboree that the Founder, Baden-Powell was proclaimed “Chief Scout of the World.”

Before leaving for home, the Scouters, attended a Gilwell Woodbadge Training Course at Gilwell Park. Upon completing the three parts of the training they were awarded the Woodbadge, the first to Australian Scouters.

F Finley, one of the Troops Scouts died in April he was given a Scout Funeral. A shield was presented to be compete for annually in his memory.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19th.

1920

PARRAMATTA ROAD, LEICHHARDT

MONSTER FANCY FAIR MARKET DAY AND CARNIVAL

IN AID OF

Leichhardt Boy Scouts Hall

Six Large Stalls full of Groceries, Ornaments, Fancy Goods,
Clothing, Books, Toys, Vegetables, Fruit, Ice Cream, &c,
Dolls, Dolls, Dolls, a Regular Baby Farm,
Hosts of Novelties, and Special Attractions

**Don't Fail to Attend the Jolliest Day Ever
held in Leichhardt**

SPECIAL

Don't Forget how the Boy Scouts helped you during the
Influenza Epidemic. Reward them now by sending along
Donations of Goods of Anykind to the Stalls. Scouts in
Uniform will be pleased to call on you and collect your
Gifts, if too large for the lads to carry we will send the
Trek Cart. Not too many Motor Cars or Pianos Please

Grand Finale -- Confetti Battle

Organiser: E. A. NICHOLS, J.P., 35 Albert Street, Leichhardt

MEMO -- We desire to thank Mr. G. W. Hean, Manufacturing Chemist, for Donation of Printing

W. J. Anderson & Co., Print, Sydney

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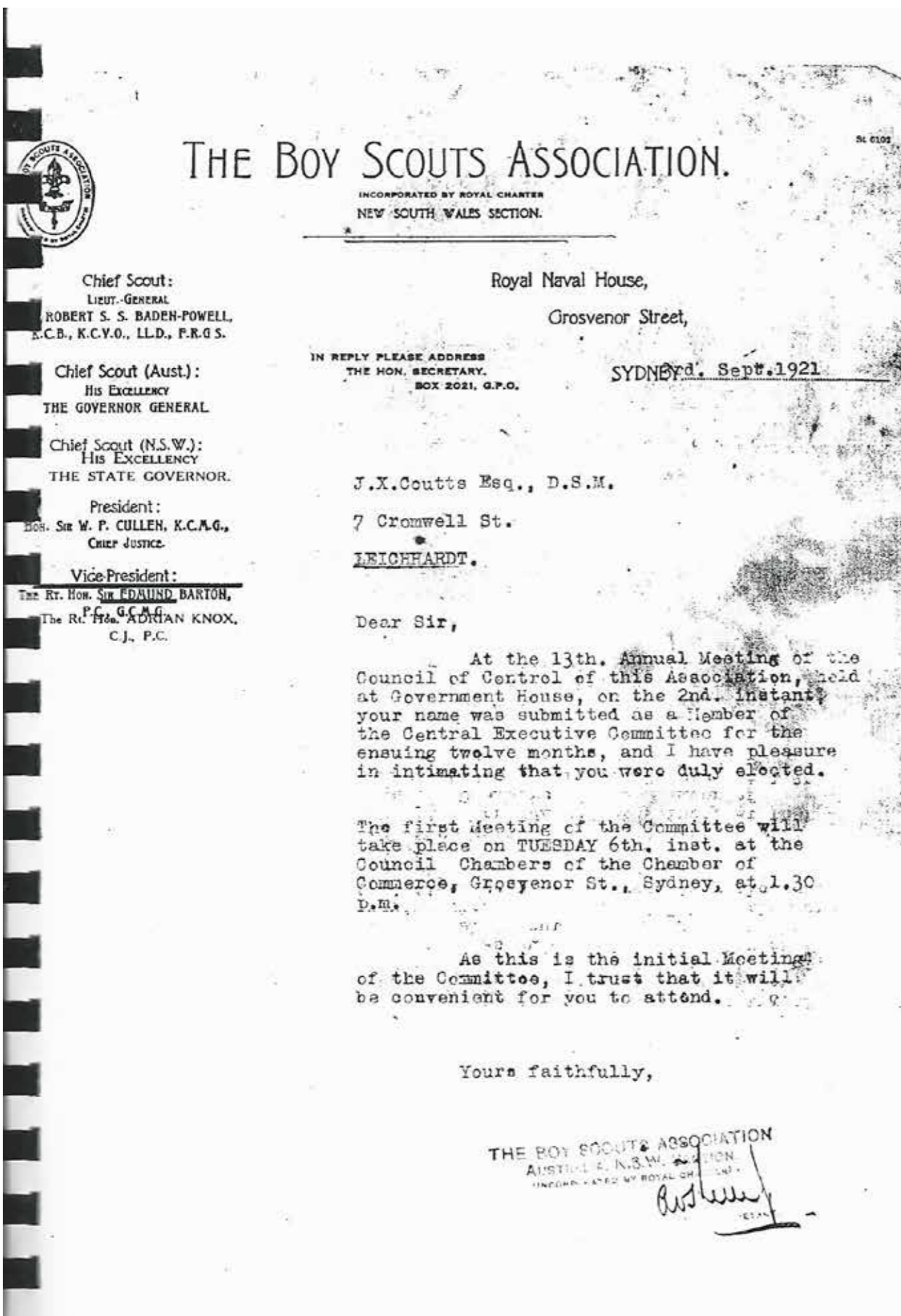
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1921

In September a start was made to build the new club room on the Troop land in Balmain Rd. The hall to be 50 ft. long by 30 ft. wide with basement. Mr Nichols (Pres.) and Mr Coutts worded every day at building. The hall was erected by not completed by November.

A number of donations were made by those in the trade. The sum of £355, was in hand when the start was made, £170 was borrowed free of interest and this was raised to £590 by fund raising activities. With this the was erected and partly fitted out. A bazaar held in November raised £112 which was put to the credit of the building fund.

Mr McKenzie who had seen a lot of rovers in England commenced a Rover Section in the Group. About 8 or 9 ex-scouts joined, meetings were held in our Petersham club room to start, in 1922 moved to the new hall of 1st Leichhardt.

Extract "Campbelltown-Ingleburn News" 16th May 1972.

The Origin by C. Watson.

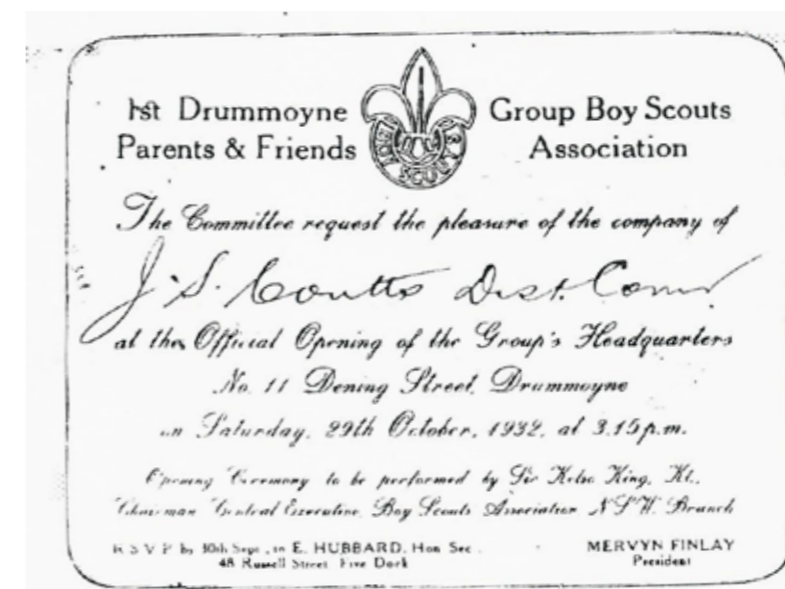
Saturday, 26th November 1921, after completing my chores as a telegraph messenger, I started on my way home. I met a group of blokes in uniform, they all had heavy rucksacks. Falling in step with the oldest looking chap who apparently was the leader, I walked along with them.

How was I to know that this was James X Coutts one of the first scouts in Australia.

As we walked my questions were unending -----

D.S.M. Coutts inoculated me with the germ of Scouting.

From this meeting a Patrol was formed at Campbelltown as part of 1st Leichhardt.



Extract from
The Jubilee History of Leichhardt
December 1921.

"The Leichhardt Boy Scouts have the honor of being one of the first troops formed in New South Wales. It was in August, 1908, that the first patrol was formed under Patrol Leader A. McMillen, the first meeting place being in James Street, but numbers soon compelled a move to larger quarters. It is the Leichhardt Scouts' proud record that they have never come lower than third in any Scout competition since their formation, and all the famous Scout trophies have at various times come their way. The troop have held the Fairfax banner twice; and during 1920-1 the West Sydney District banners were won in both Scout and Cub competitions, this Troop also winning the Mick Simmons Cup for athletics, and the Bert Taylor Memorial Football Cup. The notable public service rendered by the Scouts throughout the Empire during the war earned national gratitude, their work being a wonderful record of youthful patriotism, and the Leichhardt lads were not backward in this regard. Ninety-five members and ex-members of the Troop enlisted in the A.I.F., one (Troop-leader Henderson) enlisting at the age of 15, and being one of the youngest soldiers at Gallipoli, whilst two ex-members, Lieut. W. Harris, M.C. (killed) and Lieut W. Phillips, D.C.M., M.M., won decorations.

Amongst the services rendered by Leichhardt Troop was that as cyclist messengers at Victoria Barracks in 1914-15, as well as assisting at the Red Cross and War Chest depots, etc., and in the many patriotic movements extant during the years of war. The

Commonwealth authorities awarded the Leichhardt Scouts eight special badges for valuable services rendered in selling seventh War Loan bonds, the Troop bringing in contributions to this object to the tune of £5,650. They also were active in support of other local efforts, raising sums at different times in aid of the Voluntary Workers, Broughton Hall Car Fund, etc., and during the influenza epidemic they valiantly assisted in the relief work then undertaken. For this they received a hearty vote of thanks, under seal, from the Municipal Council. The Scouts are fortunate in having a very energetic Supporters' Committee, foremost amongst whom is President E.A. Nichols J.P.; hon. secretary, Mr. F. Flack; hon. treasurer, Mr. J. Mealey; and Scoutmaster, Mr. J.X. Coutts. A good deal of hard work and organisation has been put in by these gentlemen and others towards securing a permanent home for the Troop, and now they have succeeded in erecting a fine hall in Balmain Road, at a value (including land and building) of about £1,000.

Many Scout decorations have been won by the Troop. The Imperial authorities awarded 78 war service badges for patriotic duty, and a number of life-saving awards have also been won by R. Fergie, McDermott, Henderson, R. Tickney, all members of the Troop. The Silver Wolf, the highest Scout award, for all-round scoutship, has also come to the district, Scoutmasters J.X. Coutts and D.J. McDermott holding those decorations."

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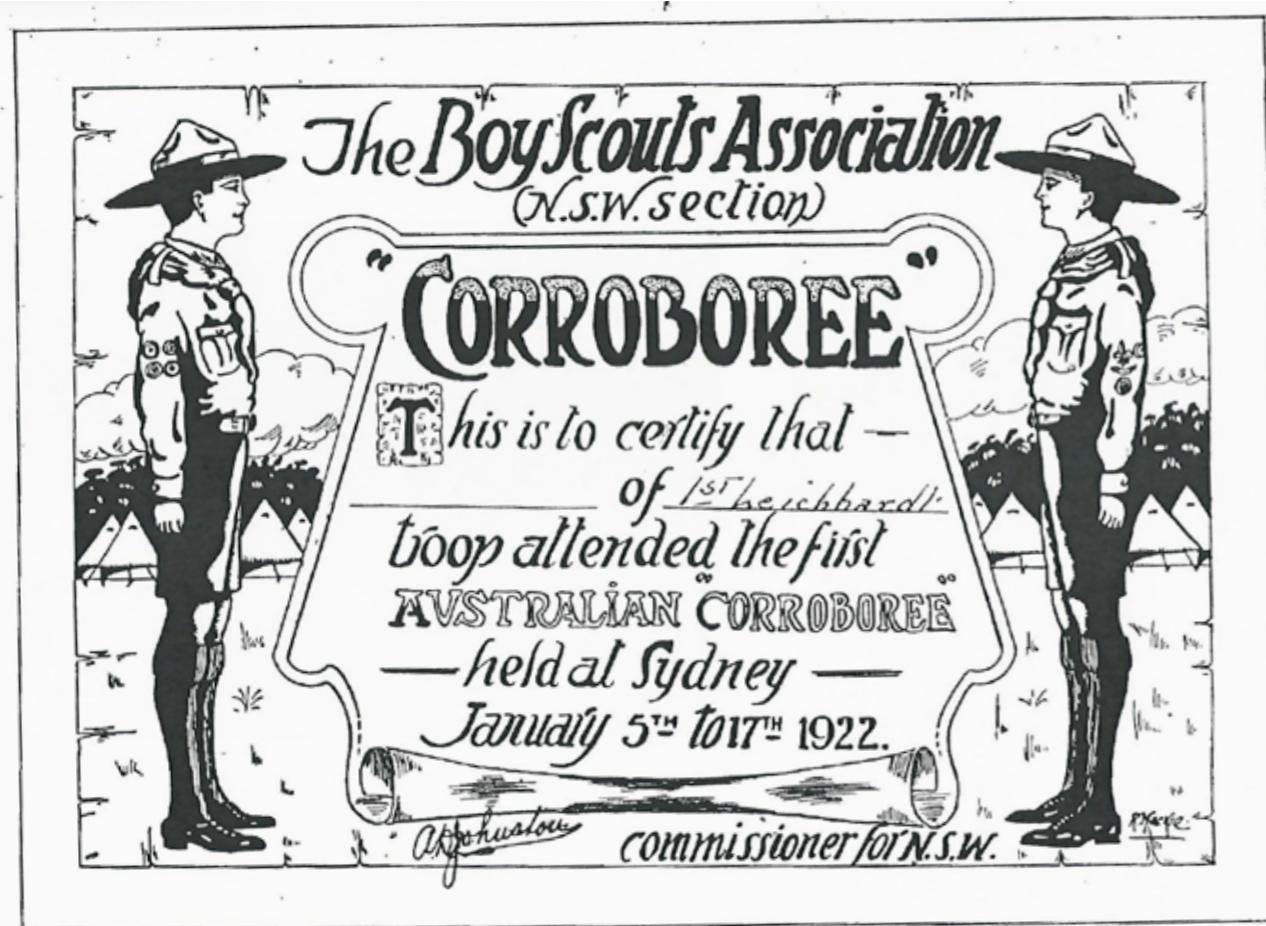
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1922

The first Australian Corroboree was held in Sydney from the 7th to 14th Jan. Nine hundred scouts were camped at the showground, J.X. Coutts was assistant Camp Commandant.

The Governor General Lord Forster officially opened the new hall on Saturday 29th April. The Cub Den and other rooms under the main hall were erected by members of the troop, including all the brickwork and labouring cleaning some six thousand bricks.

Court of Honour Minutes of the 4th December 1922 refer to the Finley Shield. "That the shield should be awarded to the patrol scoring most points for competition in 1922 and a competition be held annually."





1923

Melbourne hosted the second Australian Corroboree, two Officers and twenty one Scouts and rovers from 1st Leichhardt attended. There were one thousand in camp, nine hundred from N.S.W., one hundred and twenty six from West Sydney District.

On Thursday 17th September, a big wind storm blew over Leichhardt and amongst the many buildings wrecked and blown was the hall of the 1st Leichhardt Group. At 6.20 PM a gust of 59 mph. blew in the front doors and lifted the heavy roof pushing out walls and ruining the building which had to be pulled down.

On the same night the supporters committee met and decided to start a new building fund. A deputation visited the Mayor Ald. Lambert on the 18th with the result that a public meeting was called at Leichhardt Town Hall on the 6th of October £67 was raised by this appeal. By November 20th a new hall had been erected being larger than the old one, and better built.

Finely Shield won by Curlew Patrol.



Lindsay St.
Campbelltown

15th Sept 1923

J. X. Coutts esq.

Dear Sir,

Just a line in reference to our next camp to Waterfall or where we are going. There are three or four of us this time. We wish to know how much it will cost each of us from ~~Leich~~ Leichhardt to Waterfall or where ever we are going. State date and time of leaving Leichhardt.

Your faithful Scouts

Victor M. D. Robinson

& Frank J. Wotton.

(P.S.) (Answer by return post if possible.)

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1924



Three members of the Group attended the third Corroboree at Adelaide. On Saturday 10th May the Governor General Lord Forster re-opened the club room, the committee catering for over three hundred.

Finely Shield won by Kangaroo Patrol.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF 1ST LEICHHARDT TROOP CLUB ROOM.

SATURDAY, 10TH MAY, 1924.

p.m.

- 3.30 Reception of His Excellency the Governor General and Commonwealth Chief Scout by Posse of Welcome from 1st Leichhardt Scouts and Cubs.
- 3.35 His Excellency is received by Chief Commissioner Raymont Moore and welcomed by His Worship the Mayor of Leichhardt. (The Chief Commissioner will present the Officials to His Excellency.)
- 3.40 The Chief Commissioner greets His Excellency on behalf of the Movement, stating its aims and progress.
- 3.50 The Scoutmaster (Mr. J.X. Coutts) gives a short history of the Troop.
- 3.55 Hon. Secretary (Mr. W. Morrison) gives short history of the Committee and progress of rebuilding and present financial position.
- 4.5 His Excellency then proceeds to open Club Room and unveil the Stone, after which he addresses the Troop and its supporters.
- 4.15 Commissioner Raymont Moore calls on His Excellency to present Murdock Cup to Troop and any other awards.
- 4.20 Hon. T.J. Ley, M.L.A. will deal with the financial position of the troop.

At the conclusion of Mr. Ley's Address His Excellency will leave the platform and inspect Hall.

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- 4.30 Afternoon tea.
- 4.45 The President of the Troop Committee, Mr B. Norman, will move a resolution of Thanks to His Excellency.
- 4.50 Mr. E.A. Nichols President of the District Council will second the resolution.
- 4.55 Other Speakers will support this.
- 5.5 His Excellency will leave Club Room.

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