

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**

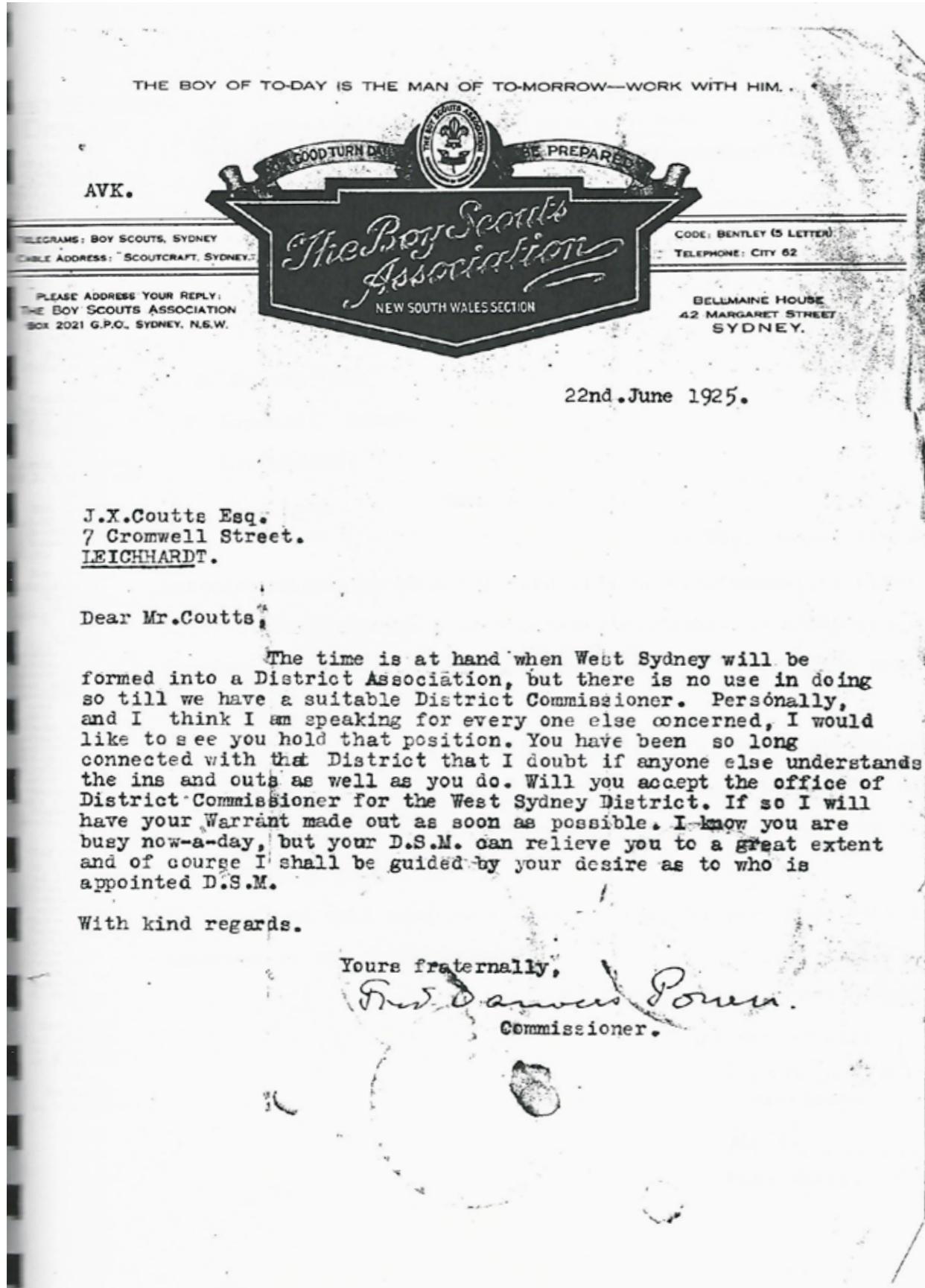
(Transcription of records collated by Allan Songberg,  
Regional Adviser, South Metropolitan Region)

**PART 7**

1925

The fourth Australian Corroboree in Queensland, the Troop was again represented PL S Fox attending.

Finley Shield won by Kangaroo Patrol.



22nd June 1925.

22nd June 1925

J.X. Coutts Esq.

7 Cromwell Street

LEICHHARDT.

Dear Mr. Coutts,

The time is at hand when West Sydney will be formed into a District Association, but there is no use in doing so till we have a suitable District Commissioner. Personally, and I think I am speaking for everyone else concerned, I would like to see you hold that position. You have been so long connected with that District that I doubt if anyone else understands the ins and outs as well as you do. Will you accept the office of District Commissioner for the West Sydney District. If so I will have your Warrant made out as soon as possible. I know you are busy now-a-day, but your D.S.M. can relieve you to a great extent and of course I shall be guided by your desire as to who is appointed D.S.M.

With kind regards.

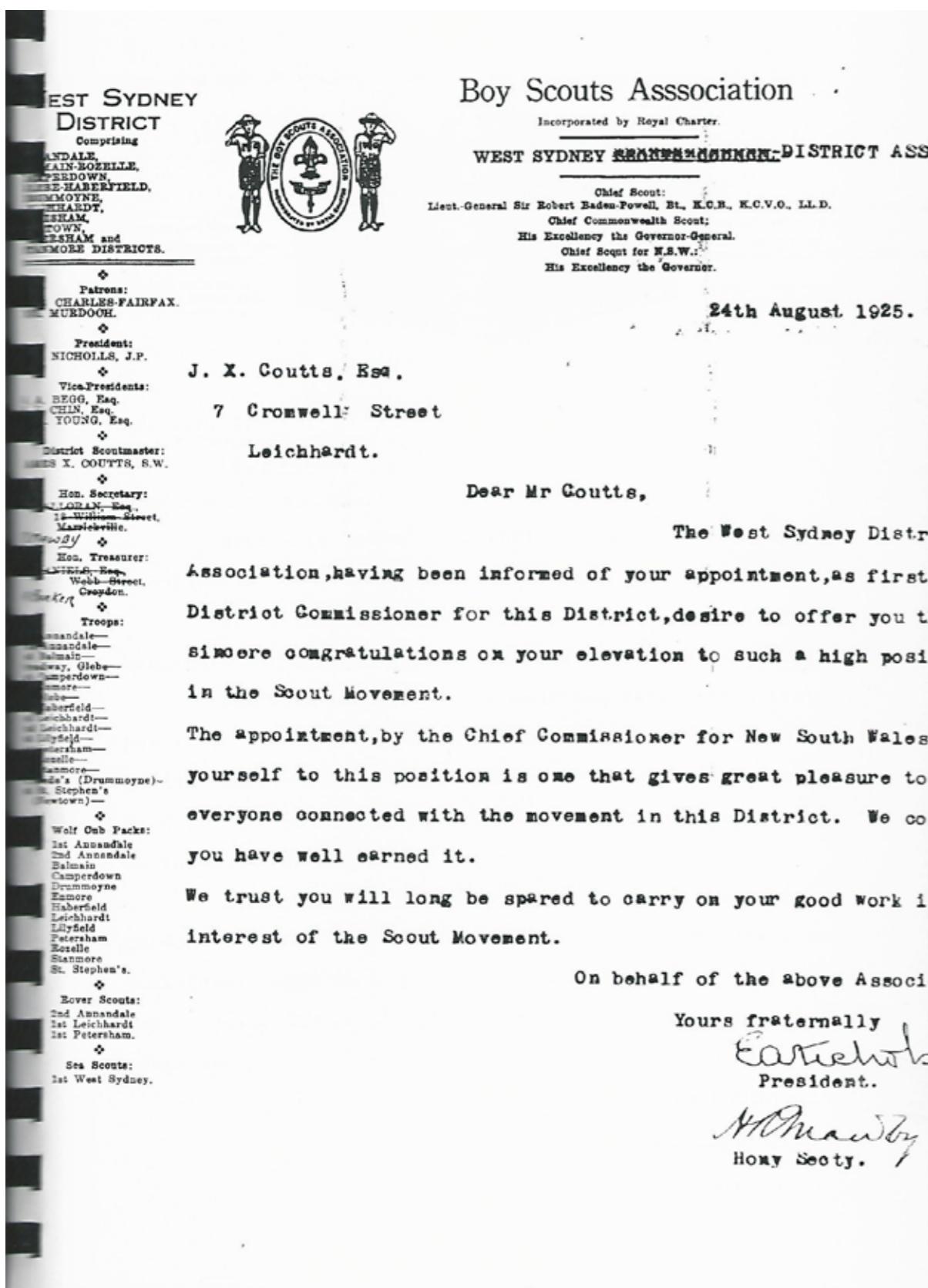
Yours fraternally,  
Fred Da----- P----  
Commissioner

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Fred Da----- P----  
Commissioner

24th August 1925



J.X. Coutts. Esq.

7 Cromwell Street

Leichhardt

Dear Mr Coutts

The West Sydney District Association, having been informed of your appointment, as first District Commissioner for this District, desire to offer you their sincere congratulations on your elevation to such a high position in the Scout Movement.

The appointment, by the Chief Commissioner for the New South Wales, of yourself to this position is one that gives great pleasure to everyone connected with the movement in this District. We consider that you have well earned it.

We trust you will long be spared to carry on your good work in the interest of the scout movement.

On behalf of the above Association,

Yours fraternally

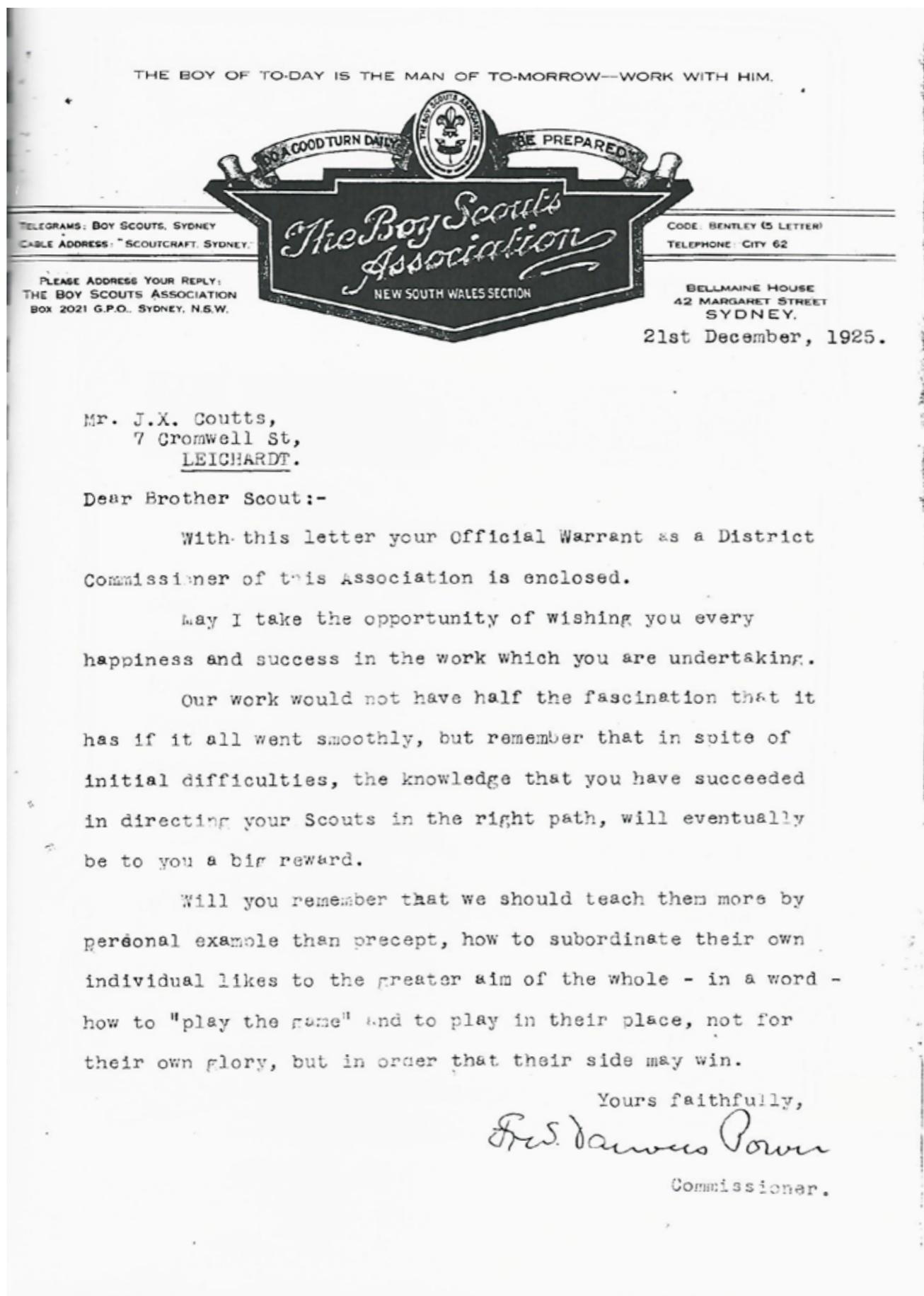
Ea---hols

President

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Hony Secty

21st December, 1925



Mr. J.X. Coutts

7 Cromwell St,

LEICHARDT.

Dear Brother Scout,

With this letter your Official Warrant as a District Commissioner of this Association is enclosed.

May I take the opportunity of wishing you every happiness and success in the work which you are undertaking.

Our work would not have half the fascination that it has if it all went smoothly, but remember that in spite of initial difficulties, the knowledge that you have succeeded in directing you Scouts in the right path, will eventually be to you a big reward.

Will you remember that we should teach them more by personal example than precept, and how to subordinate their own individual likes to the greater aim of the whole - in a word - how to "play the game" and to play in their place, not for their own glory, but in order that their side may win.

Yours faithfully,

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Commissioner



1926

Fifth Australian Corroboree, PL Fox again represented the Troop at Hobart. At a Court of Honour on the 25 May 26, J X Coutts suggested that the Rovers be formed into Sea Scouts. Minutes of 15 Jun 26 A Morris gave a report of what had been done in reference to the forming of the Sea Scout Patrol and also of the trip on the "Petrel" last Sunday.

The first Sea Scouts were:

A Morris

Muller

W Norris

E Torr

E Morrison

Finlay Shield won By Kangaroo Patrol.

M F.G. Maguire was group president this year.

West Sydney Scout Feb. 1926 (article)

#### OLD SCOUT REUNION

A reunion of old Scouts of the 1st Leichhardt Troop was held in their Hall on December 3rd and was a great success. About 50 of the Ancients turned up looking as young as ever, and what a time they had! All the old hikes and camps, were gone over again, old scenes revisited. Peals of hearty laughter rang out as some incident to the discomforture of some member was recalled.

Old photos produced and compared and the good old choruses resang as in days of yore, Everyone was happy and joyous Addresses were exchanged and all sorts of promises give. It was decided to form up and 'Old Scouts Club.' Appeals for help as Scouters, Instructors and Examiners, &c., should bear fruit in the near future.

1927

6th Australian Corroboree attended by PL Fox. A Contingent of 100 Scouts were selected to attend the official opening of Parliament at Canberra, EJ Torr

1st Leichhardt attended.

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME SCOUT WEEK 1927.  
"EXTRACT."



JAMES X. COUTTS, S.W.  
District Commissioner.

#### A FEW FACTS ABOUT WEST SYDNEY DISTRICT

West Sydney is the oldest established District in New South Wales, having been formed as far back as 1909. In the early years of its existence the District was known as No 6 District, and consisted of three Troops—1st Leichhardt, 1st Annandale, and to 1st Leichhardt stands the credit of forming the first Wolf Cub Pack in Australia and probably the first Troop Committee.

James X. Coutts was District Scoutmaster for a period of 12 years, and his advice and help has been the means of placing the District where it stands to-day.

The District Court of Honour has met continuously since 1910.

The West Sydney Scout, our official organ, is not the first attempt at journalism. In 1915 "The Wombat" was printed for a few months.

At present there are 36 Troops in the District, with a total membership of about 1500. This total includes about 60 Scouters. There are four recognised Troop Halls in the District, all paid for and free of debt. In addition, two Troops own valuable land, on which they intend to build at an early date.

The District Headquarters, situated in 3a Renwick Street, was the first of its kind established in the Metropolitan Area.

The Annual District Camp, held at Waterfall during 8-Hour week-end, was attended by 600 Scouts.

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THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

NEW SOUTH WALES SECTION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter)

CENTRAL CUMBERLAND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

May 3rd 1927

THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION,  
NEW SOUTH WALES SECTION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter)

Central Cumberland District Association.

May 3rd 1927

TROOPS:  
1st Granville  
1st Auburn  
2nd Auburn (St. Philip's)  
1st Parramatta  
2nd Parramatta  
1st Merrylands (St. Thomas)  
1st Berala  
1st Lidcombe (Catholic)  
1st Homebush

President:  
Hon. B. B. O'Conor, M.L.C.

Vice-Presidents:  
Hon. C. G. Gollan,  
Galloway, Esq.

Hon. Secretary:  
Hon. Membrey, Esq.

Hon. Treasurer:  
Hon. Roberts, Esq.

District Commissioner:  
Hon. King, Esq.  
Tel. UW8112.

District Secretary:  
W. PATMORE,  
"Karingal,"  
Parramatta Road,  
Homebush.

To D.C. Coutts  
Dear Jim, This is to formally invite you & the 1st Leichhardt troop to come up to us for the Day for Kings Birthday for Soccer. You can let me know how many you are bringing, (and what teams you will field.) If you cannot come on the holiday write and let me know (early) so that I can try & get someone else, to some ----- if you cannot come, I will write and send you a list of our vacant Saturdays, so that you can pick one, Regards  
George B King

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Regards

----- B King

## WEST SYDNEY SCOUT MARCH 1927

West Sydney Scout March 1927.

### 1st LEICHARDT TROOP ROVERS

The 1st Leichhardt Rover Patrol was the first of its kind formed in the West Sydney District. It was founded by A.S.M. Mackenzie after his return from the Imperial Jamboree in 1920. The Patrol then consisted

of the senior members of the Troop, with Mr. Mackenzie as the Mate. The Patrol increased in numbers as time went on, until most of the ex-members of the Scouts were rallied together with the one object of carrying on Scouting with the higher idea. "Everything in the garden went lovely" until some of the members became tangled up with matrimonial matters and left Scouting under pressure, as their wives did not approve of them displaying their knees. Of course, this weakened the patrol considerably, and after struggling on for a few months, it found that it was impossible to carry on.

Before going into "liquidation" the patrol did some very fine work. The members helped to build the Scout Hall, and took a very active part in the workings of the Troop. They built themselves a den, and furnished it both with furniture and every item which aided indoor amusement and sport.

About two years elapsed before any of the Senior Scouts were old enough to become Rovers, and then there were very few of them to fill the patrol up with full strength. But now, the Rover movement has taken a new lease of life. And it is hoped the new members will carry on the work of their predecessors and uphold the reputation earned by them from their brother Scouts.

### 1st LEICHARDT BOY SCOUTS PARENTS' AND SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

A very pleasant afternoon was spent on Monday, 14th February, when the ladies' of the 1st Leichhardt Parents' Committee entertained Miss Charles Fairfax at the club rooms in Balmain Road, Leichhardt.

Miss Charles Fairfax was welcomed by Mr. E. A. Nichols (Chairman of the Local Association), assisted by Mrs. F. G. Maguire and Mrs. Mealy. The afternoon was spent in a very pleasant manner.

Pleasing selections on the piano were rendered by Mesdames Maguire and McClymont. Much time was spent in inspecting the building and grounds which were very interesting to the visiting lady, who expressed great interest in what she had seen.

During the afternoon refreshments which were highly appreciated, were provided by the ladies of the committee.

W. MORRISON, Hon. Sec.

(Articles)

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- W. MORRISON, Hon. Sec.

West Sydney Scout July 1927.

**1st Leichhardt Troop.**

Granville can play Soccer. Ask any Leichhardt Scout for on King's Birthday we journeyed there and learnt to play Soccer, so we thought. Our Cubs played a draw; 2nd team was beaten, likewise 3rd and 1st teams. Although the first team was beaten by a big margin, it was a good game; but Granville had us "wet." The ladies of Granville gave us dinner on the grass (a kind action) which was greatly welcomed by the Scouts of both troops. At night time we journeyed back to the hall and there had tea, after which we had a little recreation which consisted of boxing, wrestling and other forms of sport. Eight o'clock arrived, which for us was time for departing, and we reluctantly left our hosts to themselves.

So far our football team has been a success, and we have hopes of holding the cup again for another season. We have just beaten Petersham, which takes us a step nearer our "goal."

The Cubs and Scouts are still having their regular parades.

THE ROBIN

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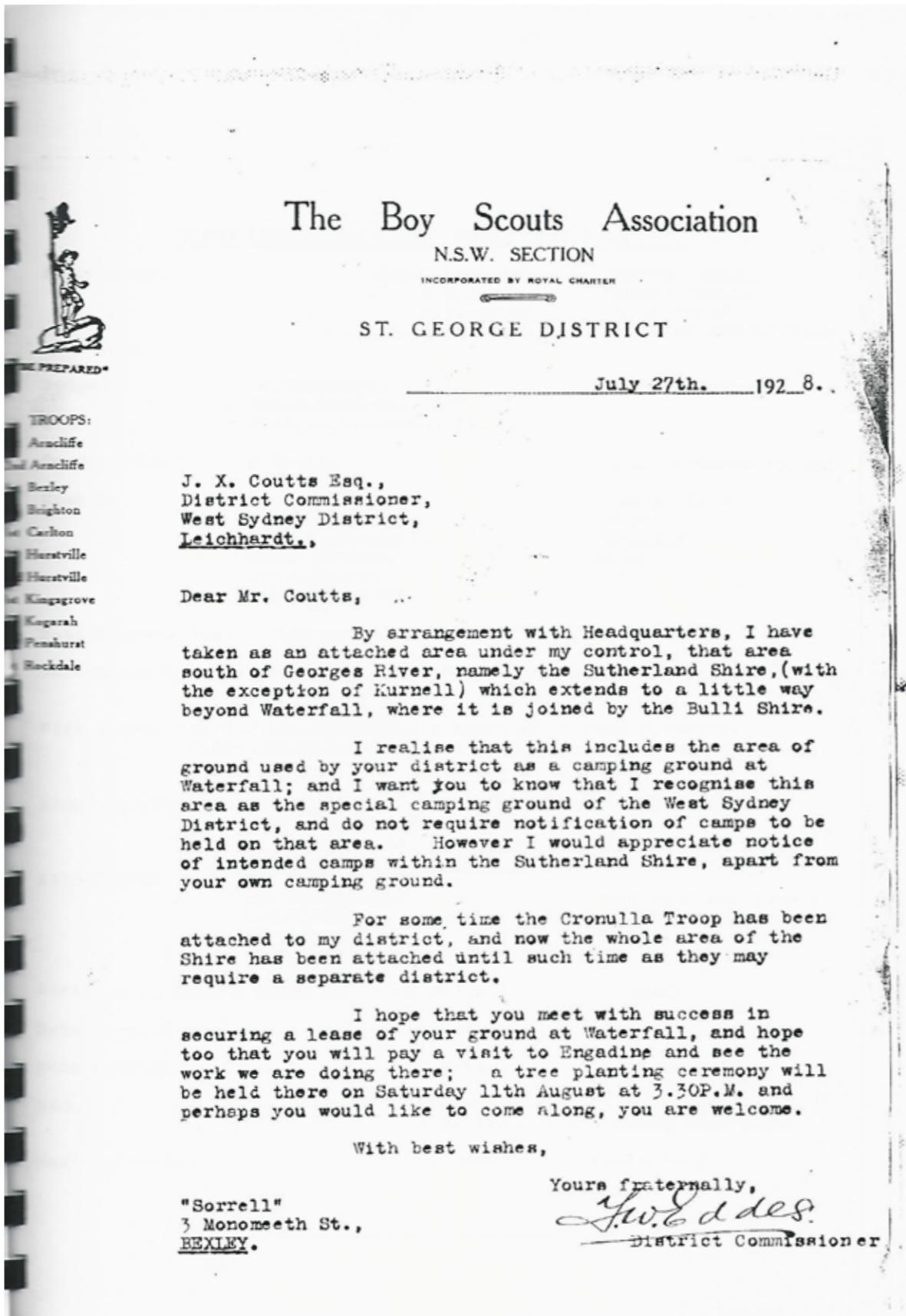
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1928

A state boxing contest was held during 1928, most of the events were decided at 1st Leichhardt Hall. Out committee presented a trophy to the boxing committee for annual contest. This trophy was won the first year by 1st Leichhardt.



The Boy Scouts Association

**N.S.W. Section**

Incorporated by Royal Charter

ST GEORGE DISTRICT

July 27th 1928

<b>TROOPS:</b>	J.X. Coutts Esq., District Commissioner, West Sydney District, Leichhardt., Dear Mr Coutts, By arrangement with Headquarters, I have taken as an attached area under my control, that area south of Georges River, namely the Sutherland Shire, (with the exception of Kurnell) which extends to a little way beyond Waterfall, where it is joined by the Bulli Shire. I realise that this includes the area of ground used by your district as a camping ground at Waterfall; and I want you to know that I recognise this area as the special camping ground of the West Sydney District, and do not require notification of camps to be held on that area. However I would appreciate notice of intended camps within the Sutherland Shire, apart from your own camping ground. For some time the Cronulla Troop has been attached to my district, and now the whole area of the Shire has been attached until such time as they may require a separate district. I hope that you meet with success in securing a lease of your ground at Waterfall, and hope too that you will pay a visit to Engadine and see the work we are doing there; a tree planting ceremony will be held there on Saturday 11th August at 3:30P.M. and perhaps you would like to come along, you are welcome.
	With best wishes, "Sorrell" 3 Monomeeth St., <u>BEXLEY.</u>

FIRST LEICHHARDT TROOP PRIZE LIST 1928

Attendance. 1st. H. Reynolds. Oxford Annual  
G. Francis. Oxford Annual  
C. Richmond. Terah (Big)  
2nd. L. Roberts. "Last of Scouts. Book

Badges. H. Reynolds. (15) Eversharp pencil  
2nd. L. Roberts. (12)  
3rd. G. Richmond. (11)

Garden (Feb) E. Yates. Book--Madmans Island

Cooking. 1st. G. Higgins. Stamp Album  
2nd. L. Bradley. Medal  
3rd. A. Campbell. Compass  
4th. A. Mathew. Diary  
5th. E. Yates. "  
6th. S. Campbell. "

Bobs. Competition. G. Francis. Box Checks.

Gardens. Merit. J. O'Brien. H. Whettin. C. Richmond. G. Francis. E. Yates. G. Rell  
L. Roberts. J. Gee.

Five Years. Stars. J. Gee. H. Baldwin. A. Reynolds. L. Reed. J. Davies.  
F. Edmunds. R. Norman. S. Muller. L. Dixon. W. Addison. J. Lumley.

Badge Presentation. Finley Shield Rosella Patrol

WOLF CUBS SECTION, 1928

Attendance. 1st R. Dalargie. Red Book for Scouts  
2nd. W. Walker. Torch. & Peter Lawson. Cub  
3rd. R. Muller. Torch.  
V. Carson.

Best. Cub in Pack & Football H. Rolls. Medal

Bobs Competition. V. Carson. Chooks

Cubs Cooking. E. Rolls. Book "Scouts Of Seal Island".

Badges. L. Harding. (7) Boys Budget  
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Most Recruits. C. Jones. Robin Hood.

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