



# NOTES and NEWS

Volume 125

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## ZONE LEADER CHANGE THANKS



### New Zone Leader Appointed

It has been announced that the new Zone Leader for Northland Zone is Gay Lang.

Gay has been a Leader for over 25 years and is the holder of the Silver Tiki Award. After many years working with the Cub section Gay's latest position was as Zone Training Leader.

We welcome Gay as our new Leader. (see p.7)

### National Conference

Conference 2009 is to be held in Wellington, 27-29 March, and will include the AGM of the National Council.

Northland Zone will be represented by two of the Zone Leaders plus the four Northland Venturer reps on the Regional Venturer Council.

We look forward to reading their report in the next issue of Notes and News.

At the AGM of the Northland Zone in December the resignation of the Zone Leader, Mike Rowlands (Willow) was received with regret.

Mike was appointed as the inaugural Zone Leader and has overseen the many, many changes that the new system entailed. It has not been an easy task changing the attitude of Leaders who were used to having things arranged for them, to one where they had to say what they wanted and then Zone acted on Group wishes to co-ordinate the happenings.

In particular, the major problem of lack of response to communications caused many headaches and undue pressure on event organisers.

Centennial Year saw a higher than usual number of special events and Mike was to the forefront in making these happen, and most successfully too! Who will forget the dawn flagraising at Waitangi?

However, Mike has not been lost to Scouting Northland as he has become an Associate Leader.

To Mike we say "Bravo!! and Thank You.

### FREE PHONE

To order Handbooks or to contact the Region Office in Auckland on any Scouting matter just phone 0800 SCOUTS

There is no charge for these calls!

### YOUTH AWARD SCHEME CHANGES

The new Youth Award Scheme was unveiled at a special presentation at the Hora Hora Den towards the end of last year and received with enthusiasm by those present.

A chief feature is the basic four 'cornerstones' that are common to each Section namely, Outdoor Activities, Community Involvement, New Experiences and Personal development. At the request of the Kea section some personal challenge badges have been included for that Section for the first time.

Youth and Leader handbooks have been prepared and are now available. Largely through a grant from the Lion Foundation a free issue of the Leaders Handbook has been made to each warranted leader in the Zone. Your Group Leader has these for you.

It will now be a priority task to check each Scout's previous record and cross-credit what was done under the old scheme to the current one, erring on the side of generosity where doubt exists.

New bronze, silver and gold level award badges are now available from Scouting Direct, but the old style achievement (proficiency) badges will not be altered in the meantime.

## News from USA

*Miles Crowther, Scout Leader at Hora Hora, has been over in Gulfport, Mississippi with his job and he has sent this report for Notes and News. Thanks, Miles.*

I have not forgotten about Scouts.

I made contact with a Scout troop before I came over so I could visit them once I was here if I got time.

The Scout Troop is "Troop 209" tucked away in a small ex-army hut that would only be less than 1/5 the size of Hora Hora's Den

Their den has a special character to it making it important to them

The core structure of their troop is very similar to ours but their flag break and down are a mix between Sea Scouts and an army twist to it

They do their Law and promise at the flag break and at flag down (their law and promise is totally different from ours).

Their Law and promise is

On my honour I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country  
and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight.



Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

*Troop 209 Den - out and in.*



## Travellers in Oz

Ross Blayney and Lucy sent this 'report' in November 2008.

We have now been in Australia for 5 months - have visited 4 States and are now the proud owners of a 11 metre Denning coach that has been converted into a large motor home. We have added extra solar panels and house batteries so it is now fairly self sufficient, ie we can stay anywhere and have mains power (via an inverter) providing the sun is shining. We plan to be back in NZ late summer next year to pick up the rest of our stuff (and my badges), and I will get back into Northland Scout history after I have got all the heavy paper over here. We are heading North to Bundaberg, Moore Park Beach where Lucy has a 5 acre block of land that we will stay on until Christmas. We have met up with quite a large number of Scout Leaders from Melbourne through to Eumundi (north of Brisbane), and Scouting over here seems not too different from home.

### Queen Scouts on the way.

Kate Morrison (Doubtless Bay) and Shaun Peacock (Shackleton/Whg Combined) have nearly completed all the tasks for the Queen Scout Award. Watch out for the big event!

### Boomerang Competition

The Kerikeri Venturers are well on the way with the planning for this Regional event which they are hosting.

### Conference Representation

Your Venturer Executive attended the Regional Conference and following good discussion has a raft of new ideas. A contingent of Venturers from the Zone will be part of the National Conference in March.

Do you leave matters until the last minute ... or more likely beyond ... before tackling a task?

It would appear that many Northland Leaders have this failing, if lack of response to several important emails regarding deadlines for events, reports, or news copy is anything to go by.

Everyone is busy - and that equally, if not more so, includes people who agree to organise an activity or oversee a task.

I recall my frustration last year when after nearly two months' time allowed to fill out the census return, it was two months after deadline that the last return was in, and only then when I filled the final form out myself from figures I personally obtained after separate phone calls to various Leaders.

Courses were cancelled last year when insufficient applications were received by due date, and then we hear that other Leaders who had not replied were annoyed, because they had 'planned' to be present at that course! A lot of work goes into preparation and setting up a course, not to mention expense, and it is unfair to expect someone to do this without knowing the interest. It is also unfair to delay cancelling as it also affects those who reorganise their schedules to attend.

Under the Zone set-up we now have, it is even more essential that deadlines are met since many courses are lead by those who already have their 'normal' Scouting tasks to cope with and undertake this as an extra - on your behalf. Courses have to be self-funding also, so a minimum number is needed to get a course off the ground.

It seems that this 'disease' of procrastination is rife in Scouting Northland. The Zone Calendar was approved by and issued to GLs last December. It included the Zone Council date in February. A reminder email was sent stressing the importance that ALL Groups were represented at this quarterly meeting, or at the worst an apology be sent. Several Groups were not present and did not send an apology for non-attendance. Reports that were required did not arrive. Now we hear that people are unhappy with decisions that had to be taken at the meeting.

If you don't respond you have no right to complain at decisions made by those present.

Two of the Scout Laws we say we accept spring to mind:  
 "A Scout is considerate - A Scout uses resources wisely"

If you are asked to respond to a message, please do so, and do so on time - even if the answer is 'Not interested' or 'Nobody attending'. By doing this you are being considerate and not wasting the resources of others (time or money).

Thanks, in advance, for your cooperation.



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# Training Shop

09-4380636 (H)  
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Well another year is here - I hope that 2009 is a good year for you all and for Scouting in general

I wonder when you were all making your New Year resolutions whether Scouting featured in there anywhere - it would be wonderful to think that you all included the resolution to undertake the training that you promised to do at the time that you took out your warrant. I find it quite sad that we, as adults, promised to undertake a certain amount of training at the time we took out our warrant but then in a lot of cases this was promptly forgotten - we expect our youth to keep the promises they make so why do some Leaders think that this does not apply to them as well !!!

Most of us took out a warrant for the primary reason that we wanted to do something for the youth of our nation, even if for some it was only your own child who you were initially interested in spending time with and helping. I guess as parents we would not be very happy if our children spent their time at school being taught by untrained teachers and the same applies in Scouting - we want our children to be taught by trained Leaders who know what they are doing and can give our youth the BEST experiences possible

So PLEASE let this be the year when we all make time to upgrade our Scouting knowledge and skills regardless of what level we are already at. Also let us participate fully in the Programme Planning undertaken by our Section/Group/Zone so that our Clubs/Packs/Troops/Units/Crews have the BEST meetings/events out and our members, whether adult or youth, leave with big SMILES on their faces and looking forward to next time

At the end of March I am thrilled to be travelling to Wellington with a group of mainly young people, made up of Venturers, Rovers and Leaders, to attend the 2009 Scout Conference. I attended the last conference with Mike, Peter and Ross and although we had a great time it was one of my biggest regrets that we did not take any young people with us. The vision of the "absolutely buzzing Venturers from Wellington" was one that is still with me today. So I hope that after the conference has finished I will be heading home with a van load of "hyped up young people" determined to put Scouting in Northland well and truly on the map

By the time you read this Founders Day will likely have been and gone - I hope YOU both attended and actively encouraged your youth members and other Leaders in your section/group to attend one of the services celebrating Baden-Powell's life and the wonderful thing he did for our world by setting up this organisation which means so much to us all

HAPPY BIRTHDAY B.P.

*Gay*

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## Here's a Useful Website

A fantastic site for those who want a fresh game or activity. Here you will find an endless number of ideas carefully organised into various styles such as team-builder, ice-breakers, warm-up, camp activities and even rope challenge courses.

Over 2000 games are listed with instructions for playing them - even British Bulldog!!

The URL for the site is  
<http://www.wilderdom.com/games/>  
and it costs nothing to use.

