



SCOUTS®

New Zealand



GROUP LEADER – Cliff Brown



Term 1 has whizzed by and 1DSG has kept up the pace with camps, sleepovers and activities galore. My sincere thanks to the dedicated Leaders and Committee members who invest their time and energy into making it all possible. Follow the fun by joining our Facebook group! Just search for “1st Devonport Scout Group”.

Group numbers are stable with 92 youth members across all sections. We do have some space for more, so we encourage you all to spread the word and bring along your friends to share in the fun. And that includes the adults – we could do with a couple of extra Leaders, so if you are keen to join the team then don't be shy, have a chat with one of us and see where it takes you 😊

You may recall from last year's discussions that Scouts NZ embarked on a major restructuring of its operations, which is ongoing. This included a three-year plan of lifting membership fees up to a sustainable level. All Scout Groups have to pay SANZ a termly levy to help fund the national organisation, and last year's increase amounted to \$20 per term for each youth member.

We are pleased that this year's increase is lower, at \$15 per member. 1DSG was already charged the higher levy in Term 1. We chose to absorb that, but we will be lifting our fees from Term 2 onwards. I'm sure you will agree that the overall membership fees you pay to 1st Devonport still represent amazing value.

Keas = \$95

Cubs = \$115

Scouts = \$115

Venturers = \$85

There's always plenty going on at 1DSG so please take the time to read all emails and notices properly so that you don't miss out. We have the ANZAC Day parade on 25 April of course, and another annual Group-wide event to look forward to is this year's mid-winter social – more details will follow.

Diary Dates



25 April
ANZAC Day parade

22 June
MidWinter Social



KEA Section Leader – Nikki Dodd



Term 1 started with two small groups of Keas due to a large number flying up to Cubs at the end of 2018, so I'm thrilled to report that our numbers have increased as the Term has gone on and we have enjoyed welcoming some brand new 'fledglings' to our nest. We look forward to supporting and guiding them as they begin their Scouting journey.

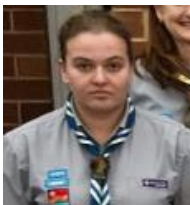
During this Term we braved the (not too) chilly waters of the Stanley Bay School pool and achieved our Water Safety Kea badges, with some wonderful teamwork as the slightly older Keas, who had previously achieved the badge, threw themselves (quite literally) into assisting their fellow Keas with helpful advice and practical demonstrations of excellent swimming techniques and water safety tips. We have taken advantage of the sunshine and got outside at nearly every Kea meeting this Term, learning some new outdoor games and revisiting lots of old favourites too. Inside the Den we've baked the Keas' version of ANZAC biscuits and crafted a wide range of crazy crafts from mini catapults to straw 'rockets' – rather short-lived once the straws became soggy but good fun nonetheless!

The highlight of this Term was our Den Sleepover last weekend. Surprisingly, quite a lot of sleeping actually took place – we must have worn the Keas out with tent pitching, outdoor games, torch-lit walk and, of course, our marshmallow roast and Campfire songs.

Coming up in Term 2 we have plans for lots more fun, a special environmental badge to work towards as a group, and our Zone Kea Sleepover at Camp Maynard (26-27 May – more details will be sent out very soon). Wishing everyone a very restful Easter break and we look forward to seeing you at the ANZAC Day Parade on 25 April.



CUB Section Leader – Olivia Stacy



Term 1 was fun-filled and action-packed! Cubs took part in the annual Athletics challenge and Swimming Gala events. The Athletics night at Stanley Bay School was another great success.

The swimming included a morning in the Navy pool for Cubs who were having a go at Stages 2 and 3 Swimming badges. A few Cubs took on the extra challenge of the Swim for Life award which included swimming 200m and learning how to rescue someone in the water. Senior Cubs spent the last weekend having a blast over at our Scoutsville Rangitoto Bach.

Good badges to work on are the Home Help and Cook badges, as Cubs who want to have the opportunity to do overnight activities need to have both. Also try working for the Sportsman, Collector and Hobbies badges.

Coming up in Cubs: Our annual "3 Volcanoes" Night Hike, and First Aid nights. For some of our activities we need parent help, so they are fun and safe for all. If we are unable to get the required number of required parent helpers by 9am on the day of the activity, we will be cancelling the Cub meeting altogether. We really don't want that, so please put your hand up to do your share – don't just assume others will do it. If you have offered help but you have to withdraw for some reason, please let the Leaders know in good time.



Kea Section

ANZAC Day
Parade
Thurs 25 April

Zone Kea
Sleepover
at
Camp
Maynard
26-27 May

Cub Section

SCOUT Section Leaders – Moira and Jason



Term 1 has raced along, and I am sure everyone is looking forward to a holiday break. We have invested a number of new members into our patrols this term, all of whom have settled in well. Thank you for making them feel so welcome.



Founder's Day was a huge success with 1st Devonport entering 3 rafts. The weather and sea currents were against us but the Scouts had a great time anyway.

We took the PLs and APLs to Rangitoto for a Leadership camp. After a long afternoon of talking and learning, the Scouts did a night walk to the summit. The next day more Scouts joined us for our annual Belmont Oar Challenge. It was a challenging relay race, kayaking across the lagoon, and then running around the bay. It was great to hear such positive support and encouragement between the Scouts. Kakapo Patrol are the proud winners of the Oar for 2019. The day was topped off with some wharf jumping and a game of Crocker.

We have also cycled and hiked our way around parts of the North Shore, had an excellent meal of cob corn and bananas cooked on open fires, and participated in community service opportunities. We will round out the term making poppies for our ANZAC wreath.

In Term 2 we'll be running a weekend hike camp, a civil defence night, a number of gold patrol camps and a couple of Saturday afternoon skills events, plus our usual weekly programme of activities.



Jamboree – The Phantom Panthers

Troop leadership roles have been announced: *Patrol Leaders* are Alex, Dominic, Toby, Pania, Matthew H and Matthew B (Calliope). *Assistant Patrol Leaders* are Manawa, Lucy, Danny, Lilly Rose (Puhoi), Leroy (Warkworth) and Charlotte (Calliope). Manawa is the Entertainment Officer, and we are yet to decide on a SPL.

We welcome Nevan into our contingent. Olivia Stacy has joined Kevin and Moira as Leaders attending from 1st Devonport. Angus and Benjamin have registered to attend as part of the Venturer Support Team, and Theo and João have applied to join the Host Corps. I am so impressed with the number of 1st Devonport members who have gotten behind our Phantom Panthers.

We had our first Troop get-together on Sunday at Orewa Beach to get to know the Scouts and Leaders from the other groups. This was a relaxing afternoon of games and fish & chips, with an opportunity for parents to ask questions.

Early in Term 2 we are holding the first of two Pre-Jam Camps, at Ahuroa Fire Station (near Camp Makarau). The Scouts will spend the weekend in their patrols, learning how to set up a Jamboree camp site, cooking, team building, and working on our Gateway design.

We have secured over \$3000 in generous sponsorship from Gill & Gundry, one of our local businesses - thank you!! Our fantastic shirt and badge designs are by Onfire Design Ltd. Please support these businesses if you have the opportunity. Fundraising thermometers are up on the Den wall. Scouts, please fill them in as your fundraising grows. Some Scouts are selling First Aid kits, and I believe another movie night is being planned. Please let me know if you are struggling with fundraising ideas or need help kickstarting a plan.

Scout Section



VENTURER Section Leader – Cliff Brown



Investing our new Venturers early in the Term involved each of them choosing a different location in the Devonport area and culminated in us all swimming out to conduct Sean's ceremony on the pontoon floating off Cheltenham beach at high tide. We had sunset and a full moonrise at the same time – very memorable!



The Venturers are busy planning the first of the year's expeditions, a weekend tramp for their Bronze level Awards. Venturer tramping is different to Scout-style tramping because they have to be entirely self-sufficient, which means carrying tents, sleeping bags, cooking equipment and food for the duration, as well as the usual spare clothing, first aid kits etc. This self-sufficiency extends to all the planning too – location, route, transport, gear...

Part of the preparation involves campcraft and outdoor skills, so we've been running sessions covering cooking and menu planning, 'Leave no trace' environmental best practice (thank you Benjamin), campsite selection, and so on. And we also enjoyed a fun pioneering challenge evening with Shannon returning for a guest appearance. Over Easter weekend we have three Venturers attending a 'Velocity' Course at Camp Makarau which as always will be good fun.



This expedition planning is well timed because in Term 2 we are entering a team for the 2019 Leys Memorial Tramping competition. Last year's event was unfortunately cancelled due to fierce weather coming in. Kia Kaha Venturers!

COMMITTEE Chair – Anne Lofts



A massive thank you to our Leaders for delivering a varied and busy programme in Term 1 and to those parents who came to support. In Term 2 the days will be getting shorter but there's lots planned, and we hope our 1DSG families take the opportunity to join in.

This term we'll be holding a Group-wide fundraiser at Clip 'N Climb in Albany. Details will be shared shortly but it's a great opportunity to involve family and friends in a fun experience – there'll be challenges and demonstrations so book early to reserve your place. We're continuing to receive fantastic support from local businesses and organisations. A big 'thank you' this time to Painttech Ltd for supplying paint for our Den refresh during the summer working bee. If your business is interested in contributing products or services to 1DSG this year, please get in touch. Our amazing Committee are continuing to provide great support to our Leaders – applying for grants, maintaining the Den and coordinating events. Unfortunately, Kaushal our Treasurer has stepped down – thank you Kaushal for your support and contribution! It means we're on the lookout for a new Treasurer. If you're familiar with basic accounting and have a couple of hours a month to help us, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact either Cliff on 021 51900 or me on 021 2407661.

Venturer Section

Velocity Course
Easter weekend

Bronze
Expedition
4-5 May

Leys Competition
11-12 May

Committee