



1st Ermington Scout Group

Greater Western Sydney Region

Hall located at: **367 Kissing Point Rd (Cnr Bartlett Street)**

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Welcome to Scouting at 1st Ermington

Scouting was first established in Ermington in 1953 and continues today with the same enthusiasm to provide our children with the proven benefits to be gained from the Scouting Method. A brief history of our Group is given on the last page of this document.

The **Aim of Scouting** is to encourage the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development of young people so that they take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens, and as a member of their local, national and international communities.

1st Ermington Scout Group currently offers membership to:

- Scouts (11 to 15 Years) who meet 7.00 – 9.00pm on Thursdays
- Cub Scouts (8 to 11 years) who meet 7.00 -- 8.30pm on Tuesdays
- Joey Scouts (6 and 7 years) who will meet 6.30 – 7.30 on Wednesdays.
- Leaders (adults 18 +) who receive comprehensive, compulsory training with Scouts Australia, and support within the Group and beyond.

As our Scouts turn 15 they can transfer to other nearby Groups who offer Venturer Units for 14 to 17 year olds. Once young people turn 18 and therefore become adults, they can progress to Rovers (18 to 26 years) at other Groups, or offer to become Leaders.

Sections of Scouting offered at 1st Ermington

Joey Scouts (Boys and girls aged 6 to 8 years)

Joey Mob meetings run for one activity-filled and fun-packed hour. The emphasis is on FUN, learning through play, and story telling. There is no award scheme in Joeys, but some badges can be earned through participation in activities - the reward is being there! Leader involvement in planning is high, and level of direction is high. Occasional outings may happen with compulsory parent involvement, eg short nature walks, visiting Cuborees and Jamborettes, Gang Show or attending Family Camp.

Cub Scouts (Boys and girls aged 8 to 11 years)

Cub Pack meetings run for 1½ hours. The emphasis is on FUN and learning by doing. There is an award scheme which features age-appropriate completion of tasks, often during games and activities resulting in the award of bronze, silver, or gold boomerang awards. Additional badges can be achieved in areas of interest to the Cub. The top award that a few will achieve is the Grey Wolf.

Cubs are organised into Sixes, with a Sixer and Second as their leaders, who have some appropriate tasks to do. Leaders do most of the planning of meetings, events and outings, but the Cubs have input through their Pack Council, and by requesting to be able to undertake certain challenges.

Cubs can attend Cuboree, visit Jamborees, go on pack holidays, hikes, canoeing, flying, visit police and fire stations, get involved in Gang Show, etc.

Scouts (Boys and girls aged 10½ to 15)

Scout Troop meetings run for 2 hours. The FUN and learning by doing are still important. The

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award scheme revolves around age and ability to achieve the necessary components of the Pioneer, Explorer and Adventurer level badges and Cords. There are also some 50 challenge badges that Scouts can choose to work toward. The top award is the Australian Scout Medallion.

The Scout Troop is run largely by the Troop Council, which consists of patrol leaders and assistant patrol leaders, guided by their Scout Leaders, and having regard to the needs of the patrol members to progress through their various award scheme levels, and challenge badges. Patrol leaders attend appropriate youth leadership training courses. All Scouts can attend junior First Aid courses.

Scouts are expected to attend at least one outdoors event per month, hiking, camping, canoeing, flying, etc. There are many District, Regional, Branch, Australian and international events that Scouts can attend, either as a patrol, Troop or individually. Scouts can perform in Gang Show.

Scouting is a world-wide phenomenon

Lord Baden-Powell established Scouting in 1908. At that time he developed the Aims (see page 1), Principles and Scouting Method that are just as relevant in today's world, and which are given below. There are currently some 20 million Scouts registered around the world, in 217 countries. Scouting is a huge, voluntary, informal education process that delivers results for youth and adults, of all races or religions. Scouting teaches us to "Be Prepared", and this means "Be Prepared for Life" as well as for events on a scout hike!

Principles

The principles of Scouting are that Scouts should serve [their] God, act in consideration of the needs of others and develop and use their abilities to the betterment of themselves and their families and the community in which they live.

Scouting Method

- Voluntary membership of a uniformed movement
- Adult guidance with self-government (appropriate to the section)
- An increasing understanding and commitment to a code of living based on the Scout Promise and Law
- Provision of a wide range of challenging activities
- Opportunities for leadership and responsibility
- Learning by doing
- An Award Scheme to encourage participation and to provide recognition of individual achievements

Scout Law and Promise

Scouts adopt a code of living that is known as the Scout Law. In the younger age sections the law is simplified commensurate with the age. One of the most important aspects of the Scout Law is that members *voluntarily* undertake to live by it.

The Scouting program is designed to help members to learn how to keep their promise: that is "*To do my best*"... "*To live by the Scout Law*".

The Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy
A Scout is loyal
A Scout is helpful
A Scout is friendly
A Scout is cheerful
A Scout is considerate
A Scout is thrifty
A Scout is courageous
A Scout is respectful
A Scout cares for the environment

I promise that I will do my best
To do my duty to my God, and
To the Queen* of Australia
To help other people, and
To live by the Scout Law

* "the Queen of" may be omitted if the individual taking the Promise so prefers

The Scout Promise

On my honour

Providing Scouting at 1st Ermington Scout Group

Parent's Role at 1st Ermington

Parents are just as important as the children at 1st Ermington. All parents have a role to play because Scouting is a self-help community organization. All parents must volunteer for one or more of the following important tasks

- Undertaking training to become leaders (the most rewarding and essential roles)
- being actively involved in support committee roles
- assisting with fundraising activities
- participating as rostered for helping at meetings
- participating in working bees and maintenance rosters
- bringing the children to, and collect them from meetings and other events on time
- paying fees (essential) and providing appropriate uniform for the children
- supporting the Group in any way possible.

So, 1st **Ermington Scout Group = Children + Parents and: Parents = Leaders + Committee + Helpers**

We aim to maintain a friendly and cooperative atmosphere at 1st Ermington and so we require parents to come into the Hall to deliver and collect their children, thereby keeping contact with each other and the Leaders (who, after all, are just other parents who nearly all work full-time, but have made time to train and stay for the whole meeting!). As happens with all youth groups these days, all parents are provided with a Prohibited Employment Declaration form to sign or discuss with the Group Leader. We also have occasional social events, family camps and picnics.

Leader training

Leader training is provided by qualified and (increasingly Nationally-accredited) trainers and courses in topics such as leadership, programming, appropriate educational methods, conflict management, first aid, outdoors skills such as canoeing, abseiling, etc. Courses are often weekend, residential at comfortable Scout camps. In-service training at another Group is provided to allow you to gain confidence before performing in front of your own children. As you would expect, all leaders are police checked for suitability for working with children.

Support for Leaders comes from the Group Council, District and Regional Councils for each section. There are monthly meetings which leaders can attend to share ideas, organize joint activities within our Group and District, and discuss any items of interest that others may have dealt with previously..

Uniform, Fees and Fundraising

The Scout uniform is in a 5-year change over period. Some members wear the familiar khaki shirts and shorts/culottes/trousers. Newer members will wear blue shirt with section colours, with "official optional" trousers/short (zip off legs) from Snowgum store at Parramatta.

Fees: On joining Scouts, after a successful four-week trial period, youth members will pay \$120* to cover joining fee, NSW Branch fees, public liability insurance. In subsequent terms we charge \$70* to provide for next year's Branch fees and public liability insurance, and for Group costs such as running costs, leader training, award badges. The Group currently covers membership fees for Leaders. (* As at March 2005.)

Event fees: Camp fees, outing costs are kept to a minimum, but must be paid before events.

Fundraising is important for maintenance and replacement of items such as tents, gear, and painting the Hall, subsidising Jamborees, etc. We hold an annual Fertiliser drive, and regular sausage sizzles, raffles, chocolate drives, etc.

In summary

Scouting has stood the test of time at 1st Ermington for 50 years. With the support of the families of the area, we will continue to provide our youth (and adults) with valuable skills and experiences that will Prepare them for Life.

Our informal education uses fun, games, training, outdoors and other challenging experiences and award schemes to encourage each one to do their best. Scouting encourages the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development of young people so that they take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens, and as a member of their local, national and international communities.

Brief History of 1st Ermington Scout Group

The history of 1st Ermington Scout Group has been similar to that of so many other organizations run by volunteers for their local community. It has had its ups and downs, but has been supported throughout by various teams of dedicated individuals, families and friends who have all held a strong belief in the values and aims of Scouting. The training and support that the Scout Association offers its leaders and committee members, and therefore Groups, is an additional inspiration to carry on when the going gets tough, and celebrate when it all comes together.

District: 1st Ermington has been part of three Scouting Districts: Wanawong (1953-1955), Kubura (1955-1978) and Parramatta (1978- the present).

Scarf: Our scarf has always had a brown background with two 13mm deep yellow stripes 13mm apart and from the edge. The reason for the colour choice is unknown by our founders, but legend for at least the past 10 years has grown that the brown represents the earth of the farms and nurseries that had been in this area, and the gold the wattle that once grew here. We like that explanation and hope to establish wattle trees on the site.

Our uniform: The Australian Scout Uniform has been through several colour schemes already it seems! We started off in the brownish woollen shorts and dark khaki shirts with "lemon squeezer" hats for the Scouts, and navy blue short and shirts, somewhat like current Sea Scouts, for Cubs. The current uniform has been in use for about the past 30 years, although the Cubs wore the green and gold cap with their khaki uniform until the late '80s. There have been further variations in collar design, culottes for girls, etc.

Our members: Lord Baden Powell established Scouting for Boys in 1908. Our Group was established as 1st Ermington Boy Scout Group in 1953 (carefully read the wooden sign on the outside of the Hall for proof of that!). It began when an Ermington mother rang the Association and requested that her boys join Cubs and was so keen that she offered her garage for the purpose – that was when Frances Blundell, formerly of Hurlstone Park Scout Group, became our first Cub Leader and her husband Noel our first Group Leader. To my knowledge, 1st Ermington remained a Boy Scout group until 1998. Our first girl Cub Scout was Grace Muir who joined in 1999, followed closely by Alyce Mellon who joined as our first girl Scout in the same year. Alyce had the honour of painting out the "Boy" on the sign at a working bee in 2000.

Our activities: 1st Ermington Scouts have attended all Australian Jamborees, at least 1 has been to a World Jamboree, our name frequently appears on swimming and campfire Shields, they have been involved in many community events, and have participated enthusiastically in the outdoor activities and award and challenge schemes offered by Scouting.

Our Hall: We haven't always met here! We had to start somewhere and then raise the funds to build on the land we now lease from the Water Board.

The Cub Pack met for the first few years from 27 July 1953 in the Beck's family's garage and laneway across the road from the Uniting Church situated on Victoria Road. The Scout Troop started off meeting at St Mark's Church Hall in Kissing Point Rd in October 1953. In 1955, the Group met in what is now our storage shed at a site in Cowells Lane Reserve, between what is now the Reserve's playground and the Korean Church. The shed had belonged to and had been donated by the then Area Commissioner Mr W Marchant. It had been transported from Epping by Rotary Club Members.

In 1961, our well-travelled shed was relocated to our present site at 367 Kissing Point Rd (corner of Bartlett St), Ermington. The Group continued to meet here while the Hall was designed and built by parents, notably Mr Reg Macken. A figure of £1600 for building costs is mentioned in the AGM Minutes for 1963, £760 of which was raised from 6 bottle drives that year. The Hall was officially opened on 14 November 1964 by Mr D Mahoney, MLA for Parramatta, who unveiled the brass plaque that had been made and donated by Mr Rupert Werner. The concrete slab out the back was laid in about 1983 to support a proposed shed to house the canoes that funds were being raised for. Reorganisation of the existing shed, and the realisation that the canoes would fit through the end window, meant the slab is still there, waiting further development. The canoes were bought for \$1280 in 1984.

Funding: Our Group's initial funding came from a donation from the Ermington Progress Association, as a result of the efforts of Max Primrose, our first Group President. 1st Ermington Scout Group then set the scene for establishing subsequent scout groups in the district by fundraising through bottle drives. Our bottle collections and sorting for returning to bottlers for cashing-in and refilling began soon afterwards. Initially the collection point was in the lane that runs behind the Uniting Church, near Max Primrose's home. The collections continued there, and afterwards at the present site until the late 1980s when the scheme was discontinued by changes to recycling laws. Bottle collecting was the main source of income for many years and paid for the Hall and most equipment. It was constant work for parents, had the downside of broken glass needing cleaning up, but was pretty lucrative. More recently our main source of income was a regular hall hire, but since that ceased in 2001, we are having difficulty replacing that income due to the public liability situation. We need to look for sponsorship, efficient fundraisers, and hall hirers to support our Group in the manner to which we would like again to be accustomed.!

50th Anniversary. In July 2003 we held our 50th Birthday celebration which some 80 former members of 1st Ermington visited. Their ages ranged from 25 to 80 plus. They included former Leaders, Committee people and Cubs and Scouts. This is a great testament to the life long benefits and friendships that have been established through Scouting.