

Hello All,

Firstly let me introduce myself as some of you I have not yet met (especially those parents in Scouts). My name is Trevor and I'm the Committee Chair of 1st Toongabbie Scout group. I have a son Archer in Joeys and another Raven in Cubs.

Apologies for not making contact earlier, I'm new to committees and have been finding my way.

Recently we attended a training afternoon at Bundilla which provided some insightful advice and guidance. As a result I now have loads of ideas I would like to share and this letter is the first of these.

I would like to connect the families of our members more than just a nod and a wink as we drop off and pick up our kids. The Committee is planning some small events like a morning tea to help this process so keep your eye out for that. The committee executive would also like to extend an invitation to you all to attend our monthly Committee meetings, we'd love to have you attend and listen in. Don't worry we have the executive team in place this isn't a recruiting drive just a hunt for some fresh ideas, suggestions and stories.

The committee leadership

I'd like to introduce the 1st Toongabbie Scout group committee executive.

We have Lisa Dent as our Group Leader and it's her job to be a connection between the uniformed Leaders and the committee. Yep that's probably the toughest job there is so its just as well we have Lisa's 13 years' experience and dedication to 1st Toongabbie Scout group. I could go on but am confident you all know Lisa as she is the glue that holds our group together. Congratulations on being awarded the Meritorious Service Award recently, well earned.

Greg Brown is our treasurer and is very good at his role because he's been keeping the books in order for 5 years now. In fact Greg recently got a Meritorious Service Award for his work on Jamboree which turned a profit. Not an easy thing to do in fact the previous couple of Jamborees were not able to do that.

Jeanette is our secretary which is great because in a previous life she was a cub leader and knows both sides of the organisation backwards.

Angie Gail who helps out in the background this year but was the group President from 2011~2015 and has just been awarded the Special Service Award.

And myself Trevor O'Bryan, first year to scouting and learning the Committee chair role as I go. However like many of you no doubt, I was a cub and scout myself many years ago.

The committee is more than the 4 awesome people I have been meeting with, in fact you are a committee member. That's right, everyone who has a child in Joeys, Cubs, Scouts is a committee member.

To finish of I'd like to share some things I learnt and found interesting being a new parent to Scouts, maybe some of you might also get something out of it.

Scouting process

- The Toongabbie group is one of the oldest in NSW (I think we are the 3rd oldest), how's that for tradition?
- Joeys leaders take the names of Australian animals while Cub leaders get their inspiration from the Jungle book and scouts I believe use anything as a source of inspiration.
- Our group has two distinct arms, the uniformed the people you see at drop off and pickup and the Committee who work behind the scenes.
- All people involved in 1st Tongabbie scout group volunteer and are not paid in anyway other than the satisfaction of seeing the development of our kids. I'm always amazed at this when you think of the time and weekends our leaders put in and many of them don't even have kids of their own in the group.
- The main fundraising means we have is by hiring out the hall. I like this one because it means our kids get the benefit of new equipment and outings at no cost to us parents. (if you hear anyone looking for a venue please suggest our hall and ask them to get in contact with Lisa on 0432493869)

Key Goals – Short Term

- Increase our Joey population, yes the Joey mob is a becoming endangered species and needs everyone's help to recruit new members. We've recently had a few Joeys graduate up to Cubs and some others in the process all of which has left a very small mob. If you know of anyone 6~8 years old that would be interested in games, craft, preparing snacks and of course eating them then maybe you could suggest they come along one Tuesday night 6:00~7:00 to see what its all about.

Kind Regards
Trevor O'Bryan
Committee Chair of 1st Toongabbie Scout group