



Welcome to 1st Belmont Cub Scouts

38 Rugby Street
Belmont 3216

Website : www.belmontscouts.org.au

Welcome to 1st Belmont. Now that you are the parents of a NEW CHUM (the name we give to members who have recently joined the Cub Scout Pack, but haven't been invested yet) you will probably have lots of questions to ask about Cub Scouting, as well as wanting to know how you can help them enjoy and benefit from their time as a member of the worlds largest youth organisation – Scouts.

OUR AIM, PRINCIPLES AND METHODS

The Aim of the Scout Association is to encourage the physical, mental, social and spiritual development of young people so that they may take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens.

The Principles of Scouting as identified by the Founder, Lord Baden Powell, are that Scouts should serve 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.

The Scout Association achieves its Aim through a system of education. The principle elements are:

- Voluntary membership of a uniformed group which, guided by adults, is increasingly self-governing in its successive age groups.
- Commitment to a code of living as expressed in the Promise and Law.
- Provision of a wide range of attractive, constructive and challenging activities, including opportunities for adventure and exploration both indoors and outdoors.
- Provision of opportunities for leadership and responsibility.
- Learning by doing.
- Encouragement of activity in small groups.
- An award scheme which encourages participation in its full range of activities and provides recognition of individual achievements.

We seek to help them achieve this by providing games, activities and challenges appropriate to their age in a varied weekly programme of activities where 'learning through play' is the main method employed.

CUB SCOUTING IS FUN !

You can help your child by taking an interest in their life as a Cub Scout and taking opportunities to work with them on tasks they may wish to do at home. While we are hoping that your child will be able to complete some Cub Scouting activities single-handed, at times they may look for your guidance and support. Scouting is not a child-minding organisation but a training organisation. You will see that Cub Scouting reinforces the training for life that your child receives at home, school and church, in that it focuses on duty to their God, honesty, fair-play, teamwork and respect for others among the values it promotes. One of the principal differences between Scouting and other youth organisations is the adherence to the ideals expressed by the Law and Promise. It is a condition of membership that the new youth member accepts the Law and Promise.

The Cub Scout Promise is:

*On my honour, I promise that I will do my best
to do my duty to my God and to Australia
to help other people and to live by the Cub Scout Law*

The Cub Scout Law is:

*Cub Scouts are Loyal and Obedient
Cub Scouts do not give in to themselves*

THE CUB-SCOUT PACK

In the Pack, the members are organised into groups called SIXES with approximately six Cub Scouts in each. Our Sixes have the colours Black, Brown and Tawny and are designated by the circular colour patch worn on their left shoulder. Each Six has a youth leader called a SIXER and a deputy called a SECOND. These positions are usually filled by the older members of the Pack who are appointed by the Cub Scout Leaders based on age, experience, attitude and ability and have certain responsibilities associated with them to further their Cub Scout leadership training. (e.g. preparing the flag for flag break, looking after the New Chum and assisting in other small ways). These Cub Scouts are distinguished by the yellow badge worn on their uniform.

FEES

Cub Scouts pay an annual fee each financial year which covers registration, insurance, hall running costs and leader training. Each week Cubs are also required to pay a small fee (known as 'Subs'). We encourage the Cubs to earn this and remember to bring it themselves. Subs are used to purchase consumable equipment used at Cub-Scout meetings such as handcraft materials, subsidise activities and other minor expenses. Annual fees are required to be paid by 30th June each year. A pro-rata amount is charged for members joining part way through the year.

THE LEADERS

The Uniformed Leaders in the Scout Association are not paid for their time, all work that they do in the Group is voluntary. The Pack leaders all undergo youth training as specified by Scouts Australia. This includes courses run at weekends, and annual in-service training. Police clearance along with acceptance of the "Policy and Rules" and "Code of Conduct/Duty of Care" of Scouts Australia is also required. All adult members of Scouts Australia are required to have a Victorian Working with Children Card. Some leaders also have undertaken additional training in areas such as First Aid, Pack Holidays, Camping or Leader Training.

Cub Scouts know their leaders by names taken from Kipling's JUNGLE BOOK. The leader in charge of the Pack is called the Cub-Scout Leader (CSL) and is known as AKELA. Other leaders are called Assistant Cub Scout Leaders (ACSL). We may also have other leaders who are in the process of completing their training and sometimes a young person (15-18 years) who is called a Cub Scout Instructor (CSI). These are the people involved with our Pack at present:

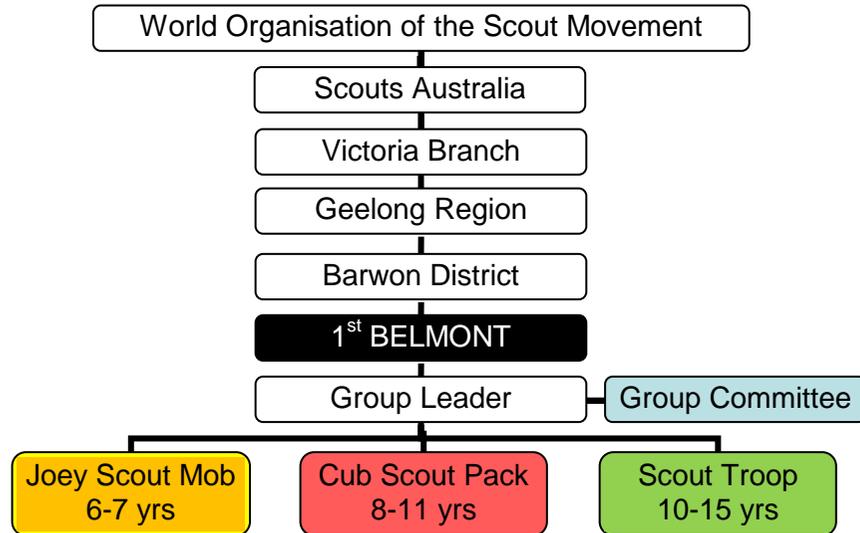
CSL	Arlene Rawson	Akela	5298 2369	0403 075 009
ACSL	Nicole Burns	Chil	5273 5860	0413 923 052

Parents are invited to talk to the Leaders about any matters which concern them. Often it may be difficult to have more than a few words before or after the Pack meeting as these are busy times for the leaders. Do not hesitate to call the leaders at home, when there is more chance to talk for a longer period of time. We also appreciate your courtesy in contacting us to let us know if your Cub Scout cannot attend an outing or will be absent from our regular meetings for an extended period of time.

THE GROUP

Our Group (1st Belmont Scout Group) consists of the following sections:

- * Joey Scout Mob meets on Wednesday (5.30pm to 6.45pm)
- * Cub Scout Pack meets on Wednesday (7pm to 8.30pm)
- * Scout Troop meets on Tuesday (7pm to 9pm)
- * Group Committee consisting of parents like yourselves.



A vital part of our group's existence is the GROUP COMMITTEE, composed of parents and friends who meet once a month at GROUP COMMITTEE meetings. Their main responsibility of the Group Committee is financing the group's activities. This includes hall maintenance and utilities, provision of equipment, leaders uniforms and training, as well as Leader recruitment and youth membership recruitment. The Group Committee also arranges social functions and group activities during the year.

To enable the Group property to be developed and maintained as well as supplying finance for equipment for all Sections, the Group Committee hold regular Working Bees and Fundraising activities and all parents are expected to assist with these.

The key person in the group is the GROUP LEADER (GL) who presides over the monthly meeting of the GROUP COUNCIL (leaders from all sections) and liaises with the Group Committee on behalf of the Leaders. The Group Leader is in charge of the uniformed leaders and the Group Committee and is like a company branch manager. Our Group Leader is David Smith.

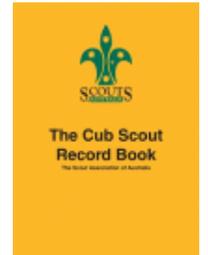
CUB SCOUT AWARD SCHEME

An important part of Cub Scout activities is the award scheme. The main badges that your child can aim to achieve are the BOOMERANG Badges. In general:



- * Cubs aged approx. 7-8 years work towards the BRONZE Boomerang
- * Cubs aged approx. 9 years work towards the SILVER Boomerang
- * Cubs aged approx. 10 years work towards the GOLD Boomerang

The requirements for these tests are set out in the "Cub Scout Record Book" (that will be provided by the group after your child has been invested). There will be opportunities for Cubs to pass the tests during the activities of the weekly meetings, but you can take an interest in your child's progress and encourage your child to practice various parts of the tests at home. The tests must always be signed for satisfactory completion by a leader, parents are asked not to sign the record book, but report successful completion of any assigned tasks to a leader.



In addition to the Boomerangs, Cub Scouts can work to pass any of the thirty-four ACHIEVEMENT BADGES. Each badge has two levels – Level 1 green (easier) and Level 2 maroon (more challenging). The work for these badges helps to widen your child's interests and to explore and develop new skills. Sometimes activities, such as a bike camp, will be arranged so that each child who attends has the chance to earn an achievement badge. Cubs are also encouraged to work towards achievement badges outside of activities arranged for the pack. This can include but is not limited to activities completed at school and at home. The requirements for these badges and a number of special badges are also listed in the "Cub Scout Record Book"



The highest award for a Cub Scout is the "Grey Wolf" which can be earned by older Cub Scouts. This involves a lot of work and is a goal for the high achievers.



Each year badges can also be earned for participation in events such as Activity days, Region Days and Jamboree on the Air. Details of these and other special badges are available at <http://www.belmontscouts.org.au/badges>.

OUTINGS

Other activities which may take place outside of the normal weekly meetings include:

- * A Pack Holiday Weekend / Sleep Over
- * Outings with other Cub Scout packs
- * Combined meetings with other sections (such as the Joey Scout Mob or Scout Troop)
- * Day outings on weekends
- * Outing to places of interest on normal Pack meeting nights

You will be given advance notice of these special events via email. If you have any questions you are very welcome to discuss them with the leaders.

Often notices for these events will request a response and payment. Please ensure that the reply and payment is returned by the date requested as the leaders may need to make arrangements for the outing such as bookings and transport. A limited response may cause the activity to be cancelled.

A copy of our current program is available on our website at <http://www.belmontscouts.org.au/cubs/cub-program>. For details of future and past activities check out <http://www.belmontscouts.org.au/cubs/kaa>.

UNIFORM

Until your child is invested into the Cub Scout Pack (about 6-8 weeks after starting Cubs) the only uniform is a white scarf for New Chums. The scarf should be worn to all Pack meetings and activities.

You will be advised in good time as to the date of your child's investiture so that you can arrange for the purchase of the uniform. Uniform items are available from Snowgum , 104 Moorabool Street, Geelong or via mail order at www.snowgum.com.au or 1800 811 312.

The Uniform requirements are ...

- ❑ **Shirt** – Dark blue Scout pattern with yellow sleeves. (from Snowgum)
- ❑ **Group Scarf** (Navy Blue with blue & yellow edging) and woggle (Provided by us)

Please ensure that all items of uniform are named

The uniform is designed to be practical and durable and Cub Scouts are encouraged to take a personal pride in their appearance by wearing the uniform tidily and cleanly. Unless advised otherwise, Cub Scouts should wear full uniform to all Scouting activities.

YOUR CHILD'S INVESTITURE

The investiture ceremony is an important occasion for your child and he or she will want you and other family members and friends to be present when they become a Cub Scout. At the investiture ceremony you are encouraged to sit close and take photographs of this significant occasion if you wish.

On the night your child is to be invested he or she will wear their Cub Scout uniform for the first time. He or she should arrive at the hall wearing uniform and their white scarf. If they are linking from the Joey Scout Mob they will already be wearing the Group Scarf. After the investiture, when your child is presented with the various badges they are entitled to wear on their uniform, you will be able to help them sew the badges in the appropriate places on the uniform. The illustrations both in the yellow book and on our website will guide you in placing each badge.

PARENTS AND SCOUTING

We welcome you to enjoy with your child the experiences that Scouting has to offer. You are vitally important to the Scout group and without your efforts the work of the movement could not continue. There are plenty of opportunities for you to share in the pleasure of Cub Scouting by:

- * Taking an interest in what your child is doing.
- * Assisting with activities and helping with transport to and from outings
- * Letting us know of your own special interests and talents (you may like to share your interests with the Pack)

You too have several obligations to the Scout group. These include payment of yearly and term fees, assistance in the program as part of a roster system and assistance with fund-raising and hall working bees.

Please also consider serving on the Group Committee or becoming a leader. We understand that everyone has very busy lives however if every parent gives a little of their time then the group will function well.

The Scout Association is in constant need of adult leaders, usually parents like yourselves, who are prepared to make a contribution. No skills are required - just a willingness to learn. The training given to a new leader is painless and fun, there is vast satisfaction in knowing that one is contributing to the development of the coming generation, and it is an enjoyable hobby. Any uniformed leader can give you information on what is required and how to make a start.