



Buildings located on Churchward Park, Blenheim

Background

The Churchward Park Scout Group has been working out of a "Den" based at Churchward Park for the last 20 or so years. Through this time, the Group has been providing an Adventurous Outdoor Education program to the Youth of Marlborough, including Outdoor, Leadership, and Social skills. The Group works to a prescribed program as provided by Scouting New Zealand, and the Youth work towards the prestigious "Chief Scout" and "Queens Scouts" awards. Awards are very participation based, and highly valued by the Youth that achieve them.

Current Status

The Group caters primarily for Youth of ages 5 thru 18, with adult volunteers acting as leaders. There are currently three sections running, servicing different age ranges, with a forth section starting next term. These sections are:

Keas – ages 5-7 and running on Monday afternoon, and Tuesday evenings

Cubs – ages 8-10 and running on Monday evenings after keas

Scouts – ages 11-14 and running on Thursday evenings

Venturers – ages 14-18 and will be running on Wednesday evenings.

The Den is also used for several weekends during the year, for camping and overnight experience.

The Group currently has 72 youth, and 12 Adult leaders registered. Both the Cub and Scout sections are near capacity for the number of youth attending each night.

This has seen consistent increase, from the starting point of 11 Youth, and 3 Adults 5 years ago. A consistent branding, and partnership with local schools has seen a marked increase of interest in Scouting.

This Den has been well looked after by the Group, having repainted the roof, replaced rotten weatherboards and repainted them. The kitchen area has been upgraded with a new stove, Gas hot water system and the shower connected to the Gas hot water. A large screen TV and air conditioning system have also been installed.

Future Growth

The Group would like to work towards expanding its offering to the Youth of Marlborough. Currently the Cubs and Scout sections are both near capacity, with 25 – 30 Youth attending each meeting. Once 30 youth come consistently per night, it becomes very difficult to take on more, due to the space required, and management issues.

A natural progression for the Group would be to split the Cub and Scout sections in two, and run on different nights. However, as of next term the Den will be used each week night, and therefore capacity does not exist for this to happen. The current alternative would be to put Youth on a waiting list, until a position became available for them.

Proposal

It has come to the attention of the Group, that the second building on the site, that was being used by the Girl Guides has become vacant. We would like to propose that the Churchward Park Scout Group take over the use and care of this building.

In doing so, the Group will be able to start work towards doubling our youth sections, and therefore doubling the potential number of Youth that we can serve. We can then have the ability to run two sections per night.

The Group, and wider Marlborough Scout Zone also has problems with housing the outdoor equipment that they currently have, and anticipate acquiring in the near future. For example, a set of Kayaks are currently sitting in the weather. The use of the garage attached to the second building on the site will enable us to house not only these Kayaks, but additional equipment that is planned for the future – an additional gear trailer and associated tents, climbing and caving gear.

The Group also notes that this building has had no maintenance performed on it for sometime, with the external paintwork in obvious need of repair, and the inside could do with some work too. The Group would like to put a maintenance program in place, and the building brought up to standard with a new paint job on the outside, and the inside tidied up as required.

The Vision

The Churchward Park Scout Group would like to, over the next 3 years work towards the successful running of an additional Cub, Scout and Venturer sections, across the two buildings on Churchward Park. This would give the potential for us to serve upwards of 200 Marlborough Youth, and 30 adults.

The second building could also still be made available for use by the Girl Guides should they require it.

Thanks

The Churchward Park Scouts and their committee would like to thank the Marlborough District Council for considering this proposal, but also for all the support they have given over the years for the successful running of the Group.

Kind Regards,

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