

Devonport Scouts on the rise again

After a hiatus of five years, a Scout Troop is operating again at 1st Devonport Scout Group. With 1st Devonport's Cubs and Keas thriving, attention can now be focused on re-establishing the Scout Troop. Their first meeting was held on 21st April at the Scout Den in Allenby Ave, Devonport. Meetings are being led by Christopher Jones, 1st Devonport's Group Leader, with assistance from Mike Miller, Zone Scout Leader.

The re-opening of the 1st Devonport Scout Troop (for 10-14 year olds) has been long awaited by one Devonport family in particular. The de Boyett family immigrated to New Zealand from England in November 2009 for a lifestyle change and to be closer to family. The two de Boyett boys, Richard and Michael, aged (almost) 13 and 10 years respectively, both belonged to 9th St Albans Scout Group in Hertfordshire. Richard and Michael started as six year olds in the Beavers section - the equivalent to Scouting New Zealand's Keas. Michael had just graduated from Cubs and Richard had been a Scout for two years prior to arriving in New Zealand.

The family looked for a Scout group for the boys to join soon after settling in Devonport. They found out about 1st Devonport Scout Group through an article in the Flagstaff. Despite 1st Devonport having no Scout Troop at the time, the boys decided to join up because the Allenby Ave Den is handy to their home. Although Michael had completed Cubs in England, he became a Cub here due to the different age at which Cubs graduate to being Scouts in New Zealand. But by April of this year, Michael felt ready to move on to Scouts.

"I enjoyed making lots of new friends at Cubs but I had done a lot of the activities before and they are more suited to younger kids" he said. Michael is looking forward to his friends from Cubs moving up to Scouts with him.

Richard was invested as a 1st Devonport Scout in December 2009 and although he remained a 'Lone Scout' until now, he was able to visit dif-



Rising from the ashes...Devonport Scout troop lives again: Scout leader Christopher Jones (centre) with Richard (left), and Michael de Boyett (right).

ferent Scout groups. He attended meetings at the Takapuna Scout Group and a highlight was being invited to go on camp with them. Richard also spent time renovating the 1st Devonport Scout Patrol den and helping out during Cubs' meetings. Now Richard is looking forward to learning new outdoor skills and doing lots of outdoor activities like camping. He says the main difference between Scouting in New Zealand and Scouting in England is the opportunity to keep doing outdoor activities throughout the year. "Being a scout means you get to experience a fun outdoor lifestyle while socialising and making new friends." Richard said.

Richard and Michael's dad, Andy, agrees. Growing up in New Zealand and involved in Scouting as a boy himself, Andy said Scouts is still all about a healthy outdoor lifestyle. "Scouts offers a different experience to other kids' outdoor team activities such as sports teams," he said.

"It gives kids the opportunity to learn self-reliance, have their own space and become more independent, which they want more of at that age," Andy said.

Now the Scouts have a fully refurbished meeting place too. Over the past year, the Devonport Community Board has assisted with essential maintenance and repairs and new kitchen equipment has been purchased with funds from Devonport Rotary. As a result, the Allenby Ave Scout Den has been renovated, repainted and rejuvenated. The hall is also available to hire for children's and adult's parties and for use by community groups. The Group continue to fundraise for much needed new equipment and are holding their annual Coal Drive during May 2010.

• For more information about ordering coal, contact Suzanne on phone 446 1272 or for details about Scouts, contact Christopher on phone 445 7810. **By Maria Teape**

NARROW NECK BEACH



1920s Character Home 3+ 2
23 OLD LAKE RD
 Just over 100m up from the beach, a charming 3 bedroom home in near original condition on large 703m2 section. Plastered double brick with tile roof, leadlight windows, open fireplace and exposed beams. Wide views include Rangitoto and Mt Victoria. 2 sunrooms, office/workshop, hobby room, laundry, garage and carport. Gas heating. Large near level lawn in subtropical garden with avocado, peach, apple, and guava trees.

For more information or to view:
Ph 445 1655 **High \$900,000s**
 info@newview.co.nz

BELMONT PHARMACY LTD

Allan & Kathryn Pollock

The

Health Store in a
pharmacy setting

21 Years Serving the Community

143 Lake Road, Belmont. Phone 445 8247