

# **HAWKE SEA SCOUTS**

## **1928-2009**



Service • Truthfulness • Righteousness • Integrity • Keeness • Example

Compiled by T K (Tom) Pallas

**EDWARD HAWKE 1<sup>st</sup> Baron (1705-1781)** was a Royal Navy Officer who was successful in battle on a number of occasions but is remembered particularly for the battle of Quiberon Bay in 1759 when he most certainly prevented a French invasion and he was rewarded with a baronetcy. A number of warships were named after him and he was First Lord of the Admiralty from 1766 to 1771.

Edward Hawke was head of the group of Lords who selected Captain James Cook to make the first of his famous exploratory voyages to the South Seas, in particular, to observe the transit of Venus in Tahiti on behalf of the Royal Society of London. Cook commenced this first of his three voyages in 1768 and he and the crew of HMS Endeavour were probably the first Europeans to set eyes upon Hawkes Bay in the North Island in 1769. He named it for Lord Hawke.

**MARTIN HAWKE (1860-1938)** became 7<sup>th</sup> **Baron** on the death of his father in 1887 and was a well known cricketer and cricket administrator for many years. It was this Hawke descendant who consented to the use of the family Crest and Motto and also agreed to become patron of the Hawke Sea Scouts.

### **CREST and MOTTO**

This is a rising hawk with a Fleur-de-lis (the traditional scout emblem) on its chest and the motto is STRIKE.

*Service, Truthfulness, Righteousness, Integrity, Keenness, Example*

### **1907**

The Scout movement commenced in England soon after Lord Baden Powell wrote his book "Scouting for Boys"

### **1908**

The first official Scout Troop in New Zealand was formed in Kaiapoi which is situated just north of Christchurch.

### **1924**

Mr A J Veart transferred this year from the Leys Institute Scout Group (which, as a very experienced Scoutmaster, he had formed in 1920 at the invitation of Mr Leys) back to All Saints Ponsonby where he had served previously, but which was now in a bad way mainly through lack of experienced Scoutmasters. With Mr Veart at the helm it soon regained its strength and efficiency. As scout numbers grew, it was decided that All Saints should form a Second Troop to operate as a Sea Scout unit.

## 1928

It was this Second Troop of All Saints that, early this year, Mr Veart brought to Cox's creek.

The Sea Scout Troop decided to rename themselves as Hawke after the famous seafarer who had been granted a baronetcy, and learning some time later, that there was a Lord Hawke still in existence, Mr Veart wrote to him inviting him to be Patron of the Troop, asking for the right to use the family Crest, and also for a picture of the famous ancestor. This would obviously have occurred sometime before 1938 when Lord Hawke died.

Lord Hawke gladly gave his consent to both requests and also sent a picture, and it is recorded that Lord Hawke took a keen interest in the Troop during his lifetime, and when his brother succeeded to the title he showed a similar interest.



(02) A J Veart  
Founder

Later in 1928, a small boat shed at the foot of Jervois Road became the headquarters of Hawke Sea Scouts in which Mr Veart continued in the role of "Skipper" (Leader) for some 20 years. His Mate (First Officer) was **Reg Smith**.

**NOTE** Some of the details above, regarding the origins of the Hawke Troop is a synopsis of data in a booklet issued by Hawke. **Refer 1948.**

For more information on the scouting activities of Mr Veart before Hawke **Refer Appendix.**

A letter from Mr Veart to the Town Clerk Auckland dated 26/10/28 reads as follows;

*Dear Sir,*

*I am in charge of a troop of sea scouts and we keep our boat at Cox's Creek, Ponsonby.*

*Every time we take the boat out, we have to carry all our gear about half a mile (from the home of one of the troop where it is stored) to the boat and the same again when we have finished using.*

*We would like to obtain permission to erect a boat shed on the fore-shore for storing our gear and so save the labour and inconvenience of the carrying.*

*The site we were thinking of is about a chain to the north of the bathing sheds, there are several sheds already there.*

*Would you be so kind as to inform me what are the necessary steps to take to obtain this permission.*

*Thanking You,*

*I remain, your obedient servant,*

*A. J Veart*

*Scoutmaster, "Hawke" Sea Scouts*

**NOTE** There is no record of a shed being built and its more likely that one was begged, borrowed, bought or rented in the same location.

From the beginning, the troop was very organised, adopting strict navy protocols and terminology. The NZ navy provided an unused ship's boat for training and sailing purposes and this was maintained in top condition by the boys. Such was the popularity of scouting, the troop had to be divided into two watches, with both meeting on a Saturday for sailing

### **1943**

A minute of the Auckland City Council dated 5/2/43 and addressed to the City Engineer refers to an application by **Mr J S Lambert** on behalf of the Parents committee of the Hawke Sea Scouts to make alterations to the shed on the foreshore at Cox's Creek. Permission was granted.

Note. this referred to the addition of a wood building on top of the original boat shed. Photos show that this work was carried out.

### **1944**

It is suggested in some of the archival material that during this year, two sections were purchased on **Herald (Pine) Island** located in the upper reaches of the Waitemata Harbour.

In fact, records of the Land Sales Court Auckland show that only one was purchased in April of this year from a Mr Walter Louis Castaing; **Lot 136**, in the name of A J Veart. One of the documents states that the reason for purchase was "To provide camping grounds for Scouts." The purchase price was 85 Pounds with 20 Pounds deposit and the balance to be paid at 2 Pounds per Month at 5% interest per annum. Mr Veart's occupation is listed as carpenter. **(Refer to 1959/60)**

Scouts rowed up to the island on a weekend with their camping equipment taken up by barge. Families attended the camp on Sundays to join in the activities. They were transported there by passenger ferry which was in operation before the causeway was built in 1958. Rowing to the island was fun but a stiff nor'wester and a running tide tested the ability of scouts in a grim struggle

On the **27<sup>th</sup> January** the Hawke colours were paraded for the first time at the Lord Baden Powell memorial service held at Carlaw Park

### **1947**

A letter of 24/3/47 from the City Council in reply to an enquiry from the Scout Association regarding valuation of the Hawke ship notes that, **'This**

shed is situated on a reserve which was vested in council in 1915 by special legislation.’

## 1948

Mr Veart resigned as Skipper of Hawke in June of this year and was succeeded by **Mr W P Lambert the Assistant Scoutmaster** who had come up through the ranks.

With troop numbers standing at over 100, the first three Standard Scout Cutters were launched. They had been designed by Scout Headquarters so that all troops throughout New Zealand could compete on an equal footing.

A booklet was issued to celebrate the event held at Westhaven on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October with the mayor J Allum officiating and with other dignitaries in attendance.

They were built at no cost by Mr Sands of Seacraft Ltd, but the timber was supplied by Hawke. This required a huge fund raising effort by the Troop.

## 1949

A Log Book with its First Entry on 08/02/49 and the Last Entry 16/10/51 has survived to the present day. Its purpose was to record the attendances and happenings each time the Scouts paraded, based on naval protocol.

Some extracts from the first entry:-

<u>First Parade for 1949</u>	<u>Port Watch</u>	<u>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup></u>
<u>February</u>		<u>Duty Patrol “Karoro”</u>
Weather: Fine		
Sky: Blue (Few clouds)		
Wind W		
<u>Present;</u>	Mr Lambert, Bosun, Quartermaster, Bosun’s mate and 19 Scouts.	
1915 hrs	Fall In, Colours, Boys divided into patrols.....	
1935 hrs	Fall In. Told about patrols and Junior boys coming up. Told about Senior patrols and the rest will be divided into three patrols.....	
2015 hrs	Games, “British Bulldogs” .....	
2040 hrs	Fall In. Parade to be held on Saturday at 1.30pm. Told to wear white uniform.....	
2100 hrs	Fall In. Subs, Colours.	
2110 hrs	Dismiss	

T Hammond (Quartermaster)

## Additional Extracts

**15/03/49** “Told about **21<sup>st</sup> Birthday of Hawke on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March.**  
Told to wear full uniform.”

23/08/49 “Mr Lambert told boys he was leaving tonight and Mr Samuels and Mr Dearing were taking over.”

07/02/50 “Mr Samuels takes over and tells about Mr Eaton (Hugh J Eaton) taking over as Scoutmaster and asks for full hearted support.”

With **Hugh J Eaton** as Skipper, the current scarf design was adopted and the ship (as the Scouts call their Scout Den) was extended as the group grew.

Reporting at a meeting held in June 1950 for the 1949/50 year he wrote that there were now 29 Scouts and 3 Officers.

Other items were;

**Mrs O’Shea** was thanked for a wonderful 1949 Xmas Party which she had organised.

**February 26<sup>th</sup>** Was a “Founders Day” gathering at Carlaw Park where Hawke paraded a mixed patrol & supplied two colour bearers.

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** The first social of the year was held with **Mrs O’Shea and Mr Dearing** as hosts.

**March 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>** Dominion Pipe Band contest where 22 Hawke boys under the direction of Bill Lambert sold 8143 programmes out of 9800 given them to sell. This netted the troop \$174 in today’s currency.

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** Hawke provided a “Guard of Honour” for the Mayor Sir John Allum at the Community Sunshine Association display at Western Springs. Sir John afterwards congratulated the boys for their smartness and for looking after him.

**April 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>** Easter Camp was held on the two sections on Pine Island with a full programme and an excellent camp fire and impromptu concert on Saturday night.

Lots of references to Regattas and sailing competitions between troops, Bob-a Job outings, Bottle Drives and Door to door collecting for charities etc.

In February of this same year, **Mrs Myrtle Robinson** (then Mrs O’Shea) had formed a committee of local women known as Hawke Sea Scouts Ladies Auxiliary. This was rather a unique



(03) Mrs Myrtle Robinson

structure for a scout group. They were the financial backbone for the Hawke Sea Scouts and did much fund raising during their existence as well as assisting in other ways. As a mark of their ability they also donated hugely to a range of charities as well as supporting Hawke for over 30 years.

In the 50's New Zealand scouting was only for boys and female involvement was mostly limited to the role of Cub Pack Leader known as Akela.

## **1951**

It is recorded that, at the Auckland Regatta, St Aidans beat Hawke by 9 seconds thus establishing themselves as Hawke's greatest long term rival.

A Glossary of Minutes indicates that a Captain Heaton, who was involved in bringing Rodney Scout Group into Hawke, was offered a White Ensign from the NZ Naval ship Achilles which was presented to Hawke. This is confirmed in the Log Book.

An interesting letter dated 22/6/51 from Hugh J Eaton, Scoutmaster, to Auckland City Council seeking permission for alterations and additions to the ship, states;

'With the amalgamation of the Rodney Sea Troop we now have some 50 boys, 5-17 Ft Cutters, 1-Z Class, 1-P Class and 1-Whakaterere yacht, plus 2-dinghies plus all other gear... We have the materials required. The labour will be voluntary, under the direction of our Honorary Architect Mr Keith Land, 3 Carpenters and the fathers of the boys.'

Plans were submitted with the letter and the project was quickly approved by the City Engineer in a report of 5/7/51.

## **1952**

Sadly on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July a disastrous fire swept through the ship with total loss of building and gear. Re-building commenced almost immediately and meantime, the troop still managed to meet every week, outdoors in the summer and anywhere a place could be found in the winter such as in various halls and at times, leader's homes. Donations were spurred on by an article in the Sea-Spray magazine.

An article in the Auckland Star dated 21/7/52 is headed 'River Plate Relic Lost in fire.' It goes on, 'The battle-scarred White Ensign flown by the NZ cruiser Achilles during the River Plate action against the (German battleship) Graf Spee was destroyed today in a blaze which gutted the Auckland Sea Scouts Headquarters at Cox's Creek. The flag, which was also flown at the surrender of the Japanese, was one of a number of prized service and scouting trophies lost in the fire.'

On the day following the fire the Auckland Star reported that the police were investigating the cause of the early morning fire since two men were seen running away from the locality.

**Mr Hugh J. Eaton JP** was Group Scoutmaster and the prime mover in the re-building. Born in 1910, he was educated at Auckland Grammar School and from an early age was involved in Scouting. He had his own furniture business and had numerous public interests. He was appointed JP this year and eventually became a Scout Commissioner within Scouting New Zealand

## 1953

### **HAWKE'S 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY & NEW SHIP OPENING**

By this time Hawke had absorbed two other troops; Rodney and Sacred Heart.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October the re-built scout ship was opened by **Sir John Allum** who was the incumbent Mayor of Auckland. Five new standard cutters were also launched.

A hard-backed and well bound **Visitors Book** is one of the survived archival items from this year and one of the earliest signatures is that of the founder **A J Veart** with an address in Mt Albert Rd. Other special names or happenings will be mentioned in their appropriate years. Sadly, the entries stopped in 1985.

**Copy of a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet is in Hawke Archives.**

## 1959

A letter from **Mr M. Watkinson** acting trustee of Hawke Sea Scouts to The Waitemata County Council seems to indicate that **lots 134 & 136 on Pine Island** were purchased in 1944. Reference to 1944 in this history will show that only Lot 136 was purchased. However, a Glossary of Minutes for 1950-51 states **“decided to purchase a second section on the island, Lot 136.”** This is an obvious error and should have read **Lot 134**. The situation now was that Hawke would possess two Lots namely **134 and 136**.

The letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1959 requested an exemption from rates which had been imposed on the above sections as from 1954. The council declined an exemption on principle.

## 1960

Further correspondence in February with **Mrs F G Watkinson** (secretary of Hawke), involving solicitors, indicates that Hawke had resolved to purchase another section, **lot 135 for 300 Pounds**, and also to **sell lot 136**. This meant that they would be left with two adjacent Lots which would be much more convenient. Most of this money was to be advanced to Hawke by Mrs



Watkinson until lot 136 was sold. The seller of lot 135 was a Mr Stallard who appears to have had some connection with St Albans Scout troop.

A letter in March is from a solicitor, acting for Hawke, seeking permission of Waitemata City Council to erect a standard **Nissen Hut** on the above land situated on the corner of The Terrace and Holdgate Avenue. This was granted.

A quote to dismantle the Hut and prepare the site for its removal, for \$250 in today's currency, was accepted.

The Nissen Hut was located at the Ponsonby Kindergarten situated in Ponsonby Terrace.

### **NOTE**

Nissen Hut's were developed by the British during World War One when there was a need for a light-weight building that was portable and able to be erected by non skilled labour. It was made of corrugated iron and the walls and roof formed a semi-circle.

### **1963**

This appears to be the year that **Skipper Pollock** and his wife **Mabel** took over; Skip as Scout Leader and Mabel as Akela. They were a great team and served Hawke well for around 10 years. Although they had 4 children of their own, they regarded all of the young scouts as extended family. A hard bound note book used at "Scouter Training Camps" has Mabel's hand written details of name and address, and is in the archives. It contains her notes on the requirements of an effective Akela.

There is also a copy of a book written by her and published in 2007 titled "To Work, To Wed, To Weep, To Wander" which is essentially the story of her life from age 16 when she came to Auckland, until she left New Zealand for a two year back-packer overseas trip when she was aged 47. She had written an earlier book on her growing up as the daughter of a lighthouse keeper.

**Queen Elizabeth** and the **Duke of Edinburgh** were publicly welcomed at the Auckland Domain in February. The Hawke troop had a representative group there.

A framed certificate testifies that the yacht **SEA HAWKE** finished in **THIRD** place in the Sea scout cutters class in the Royal Yacht Regatta held at Auckland 7<sup>th</sup> February 1963 in the presence of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.

**The 9<sup>th</sup> Dominion Sea Scout Regatta** was held on Motutapu Island in the Hauriki Gulf with Troops from all over New Zealand. A short 16mm film of this gathering was shot by someone at Hawke and was discovered recently in the NZ Scout Archives at Motu Moana. It has now been recorded on a

DVD/Video which is included in the Hawke Archives. This disc also includes some footage of the New Ship's Opening Ceremony in 1953.

## 1965

In the Medium Size Album there is a group photo which records a special occasion in NZ Scout History.

Leader Mike Laws noted that this was the first time that six Scouts of the same troop-Hawke-and on the same evening, had received the award of Queens Scout. The back of the photo names them as Adrian Farnsworth, Hugh Pollock, Geoff Thorpe, Roddy Simpson and Melvyn Simpson with unfortunately the sixth name missing.



## 1967

**The British Commonwealth Chief Scout SIR CHARLES MACLEAN** attended a presentation of Queens Scouts Certificates at the Hawke ship on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March.

A souvenir programme is in the archives collection. He signed the visitors book.

## 1970

**Roy Lucca** joined the troop this year. He was born in Australia in 1915 and is now reputed to be the oldest active scout leader in the world. He first took an interest in the Scouts when his son Gerard joined but kept going after his son had left and is still very much engaged in the activities of Hawke and regularly attends the weekly meetings. He is a "retired" painter and decorator.

**Sea Scouts Camp Out on Tiny Harbour Island.** This is the headline of an article in the NZ Herald 24 March 1970. "Nine Sea Scouts from the Hawke Venturers set something of a precedent last weekend when they successfully camped on tiny Watchman Island off Herne Bay" "owing to the size and shape of the island only one tent could be pitched. This resulted in all nine scouts plus the scoutmaster sleeping in a 10 Ft by 10 Ft tent." They planted several native trees and flax plants in the hope that it would slow erosion of the island.

## 1971

The visitor's book shows a huge gathering for the presentation of the Medal of Merit to the very popular and well regarded **Mrs Myrtle Robinson.**

This is not surprising considering that she had been involved with Hawke for some 30 years.

## 1972

On May 26th **D. M Robinson, Mayor of Auckland** and councillors visited the ship. He signed the visitor's book.

On August 1st, Medals of Merit were presented to both **H M Pollock** Scout leader and his wife **Mabel D Pollock** who was Akela. They too have signed the visitors book along with **Mr Bell-Booth** who was Group Chairman at that time. Although there was a huge gathering to support two very popular leaders on a very happy occasion it was also tinged with sadness because Skip Pollock had suffered with cancer for some time and it must have taken a great effort to be present. Sadly he passed away some two months later. Mabel kept going but offered her resignation when she went overseas in 1974.

At 81 years of age she is still going strong and has become something of an identity on the North Shore where she resides, and where she is known to all as "Polly". She has spent years clearing a large area of overgrown navy-owned land and transforming it into a native forest; part of which has been named Mary Barrett Glade in memory of her daughter who died in 1979.

## 1978

### HAWKES GOLDEN JUBILEE

This 50<sup>th</sup> Year was celebrated in good style over a weekend. A booklet was produced for the occasion and was edited by **Mrs M. D. Pollock**. The Group Leader was **Mr Martin Bell Booth**. This publication confirms that The Lord Hawke was also Patron of the troop. The programme was;

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.** Welcome aboard ship at Cox's Creek at 8.00pm with supper to follow.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>.** Regatta and Luncheon at the ship 10.00am with a Jubilee Ball to be held at the Pasadena Hall at 8.00pm.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>.** Church Parade from three Lamps Ponsonby at 10.30am. Scouts own at the ship with Luncheon to follow



(05) Sea Scouts

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet

Some excerpts from this publication are included here to give some insight into the many and varied activities of the scouts and leaders at this time. It should be noted that girls are now also included in Scout Groups.

## SCOUTS

*Under Skip's guidance, with the troop's skill and Mike's powerful voice, Hawke resumed its position as top Sea Scout Troop, gaining Naval Recognition, in every form of scouting activity locally and nationally. We joined Auckland West in camping, training and competition, assisted at Western Springs Carnivals, patrolled the cross-harbour swimming races and competed in every regatta, life-saving, swimming carnivals and canoeing competitions it was possible for us to attend.*

*We demonstrated our pioneering skills with the erection of two signalling towers at Auckland's half-million celebrations. We built a raft, erected a tent on it and some of our hardier members spent a gale-swept night anchored off Watchman's Island. We rowed to Kauri Pt. or Shark's Bay for training. Through all our activities remained the upkeep of our five sea-scout cutters. Sanded, scraped and painted we entered all five in the Auckland Anniversary Regattas*

## CUBS

*When the Dearings resigned we acquired Mrs Pollock as Akela and later Sue and Mike Hadwin to assist her. We delved into everything delvable. Walked across the Harbour Bridge, visited its control centre, visited the Foundation for the Blind, Central Fire Brigade, the Zoo, Transport Museum, War Memorial Museum, Aircraft Carrier Melbourne, Whenuapai Airport, submarine Tabard, Radio1, Art Gallery, Fergusson Container Wharf, Jaybel Fisheries and formed a Guard-of-Honour at Pamela Dale's wedding.*



(06) Cubs

*We went by bus or train to Founder's Days at Hunua, Helensville, Pukekohe, Waitakere and Manurewa. We ferried to Rangitoto Wharf, climbed over the crater to Islington Bay and ferried home. On one occasion we had 72 uniformed members on this trip. Akela took us swimming in the Tepid Baths, Bayfield and Pasadena Pools. On fortnightly "Sixers" outings we explored the Waitakere's from Mt Atkinson, Water-works, T.V. Aerial, Pukematakeo to the Cascades. Twice annually we camped at Moto-moana, joined field days and camped at Herald Island and Browns Bay.*

## THE VENTURERS.

*Hawke's Senior Scouts, led by Mike Law, formed our Hawke Venturer Unit. With Venturer Advisor Ian Renner, known as Tara- we developed into an energetic, adventurous and highly skilled group of young men, with a friendly,*

*co-operative and competitive spirit between us and the troop and ourselves and other units.*

*At our second Queen's Scout Investiture six of our members received parchment and badges, a New Zealand record.*

*We successfully participated in all combined group activities, Regattas, Carnivals, bottle drives, provided skilled personnel to accompany the Governor-General, entered debating contests, working bees at Herald Is. and Motomoana, upkeep of cutters, painted the sail tower, worked as camp fathers at cub camp, participated in the Air Scouts Walsh Memorial Flying School and designed and published that remarkable group magazine "Ahoy". We ranged far and wide, hiked the Urewera and Coromandel Ranges, canoed on Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Tarawera, the Ohau Channel, climbed Mt. Tarawera and camped at Ruapehu. We have rowed the Waikato River from Tuakau to Hamilton, organized wine and cheese evenings and put many hours of cheerful hard work into building the new entrance to the Ship. A majority of our venturers have graduated from university and most have worked back in the group as instructors or scouters.....*

## **1995**

A Father brought his young daughter Claudia to a Hawke troop meeting one evening. On the way home he asked her if she had enjoyed the meeting and would she come back. Her reply was yes and she would come back, if dad did. Dad did go back, and thus **Martin Van Zonneveld** commenced what was to be something like a ten year stint in Scouting to help keep the Hawke flag flying.

At this time **Roy Lucca, Peter Scott and Paul Chalmers** were the engine drivers of Scouting. **Dick Cuthbert**, ran the Kea section.

By October 1996, Martin was invested as a Scout and by around 1998 was running the troop as Scout Leader and continued in the role until about 2007. With not a great deal of assistance at times and with some 36 Scouts on the roll it was a pretty full-on task. Until their sons left, along with their fathers, he was assisted by **Brian Plummer and Bruce Idoine**. His main mentor was **Jim Ashton**.

Martin notes that all three of his children, Claudia, Lydia and Joseph had been enriched by their exposure to the Scouting Experience, making them more adaptable, useful and reliable members of society, both now, and hopefully more so, in the future. A great testimony to the Scouting experience.

**1998**

**HAWKES 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

A Hawke Sea Scout Newsletter on the 20<sup>th</sup> March includes an article indicating that this troop was the first to promote the idea of having **Parents Only as Leaders** and had devised their own leadership training plan. **Dick Cuthbert and Peter Scott** were the brains behind the scheme and their aim was to run a programme “that emphasises the Hawke family background values and the role that parents play in the troop. as well as the hands-on practical stuff needed to run the troop”

The troop numbers are recorded as 46 Keas, 25 Cubs and 45 Scouts with a waiting list of 26 which had then been closed.

A **70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION** was planned for later in the year and consisted of;

**Friday October 9**

Reunion of all Hawke Sea Scouts at Western Springs College.

**Saturday October 10**

1000. All boats launched from ship. Races to be held.

1900. Dinner and Social (Venue to be announced)

**Sunday October 11**

Street Parade down Jervois Road followed by *Scouts Own* and lunch at the ship.

**2003**

A **75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION** was planned and although a booklet was apparently not issued on this occasion, the celebrations included;

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

Party Night-Disco-Fireworks-Supper. (Children \$5 Adults \$15)

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

Family fun day with activities on the water and a sausage sizzle which will double as the end of year Xmas function. (No cost, just bring a plate)

The “**Bay News**” was a coloured independent newsletter distributed free in places such as St Mary’s Bay and Herne Bay. A copy of the 2003 May issue includes an interview with **Hawke Group Leader Craig Whitehead**, a geographer and planning lecturer at Auckland University and also qualified in environmental science.

His main concerns expressed, are his battles with the Auckland Regional Council, who insisted that resource consent was required to remove mangroves which had taken such a foothold that Craig felt that the whole area could be swamped, even to the extent that Cox’s Bay could disappear.

Craig's other concern was that the same Council was opposing the repainting of the ship in its traditional cream colour; they were insisting on "recessive colours."

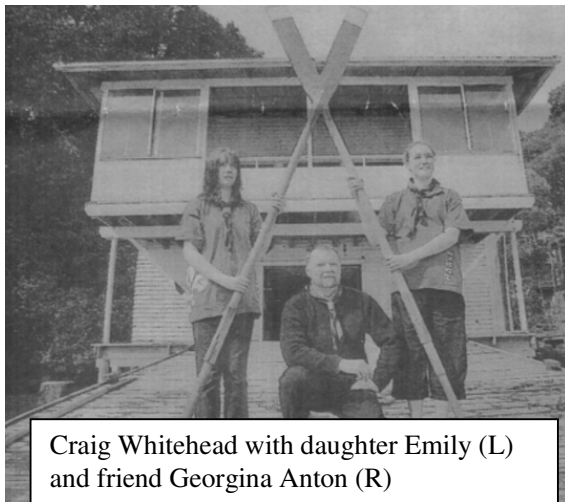
He also mentioned that the Scouts were aiming to raise \$70,000; \$50,000 for re-piling the ship, \$10,000 for re-painting and \$10,000 for refurbishing.

Hawke Sea Scout Group was also referred in the newsletter as being one of the oldest and fastest growing in New Zealand with a fine record of scouting, seamanship and civic duty and a waiting list of boys and girls between 6 and 18 of up to four years.

**Scout Leader Martin Van Zonneveld** also noted " They are a lovely mob of kids at Hawke. They help each other, learn social skills and teamwork and do worthwhile community activities such as collecting for the Red Cross Appeal. They learn that you have to give as well as take. It's a good programme"

## 2007

**"SAVE OUR SCOUT HALL"** was the front page headline in the Auckland City Harbour News of November 9



Craig Whitehead with daughter Emily (L) and friend Georgina Anton (R)

**Group Leader Craig Whitehead** was given the opportunity in the article accompanying the picture, to inform readers of the condition of the Hawke Ship (or Den). He refers to the rusty window frames, uneven floors, and a "shocking" kitchen. "Its still functioning but its also slowly deteriorating." "No showers and grotty toilets" are just some of the complaints from 13 year old daughter Emily.

Craig explains the role the 50 year old ship plays in the community, not only for the current 85 youngsters in the Sea Scout Group who meet weekly, but that the hall is also used by community groups. He suggests that \$500,000 is urgently needed for a full refurbishment.

## 2009

This year is the **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sea Scout branch of the World Scout Movement.** New Zealand groups are encouraged (among other suggestions) to celebrate the occasion by compiling a history of their group. A boost to the fundraising campaign to upgrade the Hawke ship would also be a fitting way to celebrate the occasion.

In keeping with the times and to add to this history, **visit the Hawke website** at [www.hawke.org.nz](http://www.hawke.org.nz)

**Wayne Pallas's** first involvement with the Scout movement, was as a Cub in the Mission Bay Troop. Afterwards he gravitated to the Orakei Sea Scouts where he developed a love of the sea and boating which he has retained all his life. The comradeship in the Scouts was such that he and his past leaders are still in touch today.

Aged about 20 he went on the Cobham Outward Bound School at Anakiwa and his Report at the end of the course, indicated that he had "Leadership" qualities.

Like many before him, after bringing his two young sons, Greg and Sam, to a meeting in 2006 he was asked to assist Scout leader **Geoff Willis**, along with two other newcomers, **Juan Molina** and **Tony McNamara**. Wayne received his Scout Warrant in 2008 and was appointed Scout Leader soon afterwards.

They join the group of many volunteers who, over the years, have contributed that most precious of gifts - their time - along with their energy and enthusiasm, to help keep the "Ship" afloat.

## **END NOTE**

This history has evolved because, having come across a trunk of papers and photos, Wayne asked if I would take them away and sort them out. As his father, how could I refuse. Much data has gone missing over the years and no doubt also destroyed in the fire of 1952, and there is a dearth of dates and names on material. Inevitably then, the names and activities of leaders who gave many years of service are not recorded here. People such as Elaine Ritchie who in a AGM report as Group Leader in 1977 just happened to mention, by the way, that she had completed 16 years of service as a leader. Nevertheless, sufficient has been recovered, along with other sources of information, to put at least some of the happenings over the years into chronological order.

## **APPENDIX**

### **HAWKE FOUNDER (A J Veart)**

1891 Alfred James Veart, was born. the second youngest child of a number of children.

It is interesting to note that Alfred's father, George, was something of an adventurer. Born in Yorkshire England, he sailed first in colliers and then voyaging between NZ and London. He succumbed to gold fever at one stage while at Nelson where he deserted his ship but eventually ended up in Wanganui. Here he signed up with von Tempsky's Forest Rangers. Von



Tempsky was a Prussian soldier, who, with his irregular group of men, fought alongside the British in the Maori wars in the 1860's and became something of a folk-hero.

1897 Mr Veart's name is recorded on a document signed by 25,000 school children in the Auckland education district, on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria, indicating that he was attending the Primary School in Richmond Road, Ponsonby, Auckland.

1909 In May Mr Veart formed a patrol of five boys as the beginning of a Scout Group but some months later teamed up with a group operating at the Ponsonby Baptist Church.

1910 He accepted a position as Assistant Scoutmaster with the All Saints Troop in Ponsonby and soon afterwards became Scoutmaster.

1912 His Service File from NZ Defence Force HQ shows that he was also one of the Senior Cadets of a Territorial Army group meeting in Ponsonby and in a copy of the NZ Gazette dated 14 March 1912, his name appears as having been promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.

1914 FIRST WORLD WAR began in August.

1916 Second Lieutenant Veart applied in June for a Commission in the NZ Expeditionary Forces and in August he was ordered to report to Trentham Military Camp in Wellington.

1917 His name appears again in the N Z Gazette as having been promoted to Lieutenant in December of this year, in the Territorial's, described as "Unattached List"

1918 His military file in April of this year, includes a copy of a handwritten letter which he wrote to the Trentham Camp Adjutant, pleading to be sent on active service, and the following is a copy.

*Sir,*

*I have the honour to request that you place before the camp commandant or higher authority, this my application to be sent on active service immediately.*

*These last few weeks has brought us news that has startled us; our Army after fighting so gallantly has been forced to retire, yielding to the enemy*

*ground that has been bought at a terrible price and has now been lost to us again at a terrible price.*

*One cannot but be inspired when one reads of the gallant stand made by our troops and how one yearns to be there with them.*

*But fate in the guise of the NZ Defence Department intervenes and keeps one idling in the Country, when one would rather be “ over there doing his bit”*

*An appeal has just been made by the prime Minister of England for more men and our own Prime Minister and Minister for Defence have both made stirring appeals in the House this week.*

*Is it not possible now for one to achieve his hearts desire and be sent on active service? Or is one still to be kept idling around, as one has been for the past five months.*

*All my brothers are on active service and one has paid the supreme sacrifice.*

*Am I to be an idler here, when I could be over there fighting with them?*

*Sir, it was early in 1916 when I volunteered for active service and I am here still –and the nation need men.*

*I have the honour to be,*

*Sir,*

*Your obedient servant*

*Alfred J Veart Lieut.*

Unfortunately he did not get his hearts desire, because within a few months of writing his letter the GREAT WAR was over; November 1918, and bringing to an end the terrible loss of life. It is still marked today with the anniversary of the ceasing of hostilities known as Armistice Day and is remembered on the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of the 11<sup>th</sup> Month each year.

A certificate of “Leave in Lieu of Discharge” (that is from the Expeditionary Force) is dated 23 November 1918. His rank is noted as Sergeant since a temporary demotion was one of the conditions of his joining B Company 44 Reinforcement NZEF in Trentham.

1919 A Memo notes that he is now back in Auckland and that Lieut. A J Veart is to command No 27 Company (Ponsonby) Senior Cadets.

At the same time he was appointed Adjutant of No 1 Auckland Scout District

1920 At the request of Dominion Headquarters he helped organise a camp at Palmerston North in which over 500 Scouts participated. The first big camp in New Zealand.

Towards the end of this year at the request of Mr T W Leys he formed the Leys Institute Troop and was its Scoutmaster until 1924.

1921 A cutting from the Auckland Star date 4<sup>th</sup> February now appears on his military file and a copy follows;

#### *CHARGE AGAINST CADET OFFICER*

*Two charges of having forged documents purporting to be receipts for cash paid on behalf of a Senior Cadet Company, were brought against Alfred J Veart, a lieutenant in the 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Cadet Company. Evidence was given that it was part of defendants duty to advertise parades. When the accounts of the company were audited by C G Collins the Government Audit Inspector, that officer found vouchers for all payments, but one of them excited his suspicion. He consequently made enquiries about a receipt form showing One Pound Nineteen Shillings and Sixpence had been paid at the "Star" office and found that the payment had been only Nineteen Shillings and Sixpence. He then enquired at the "Herald" office and found that a receipt for a payment of Fifteen Shillings had been similarly changed to One Pound Fifteen Shillings. Witness taxed defendant with having forged the receipts by addition of One Pound in each case, and defendant admitted it, stating that he had done it to make up a shortage in his other cash. The prosecution was undertaken by the Audit Department represented by Mr V R Meredith, Crown Prosecutor.*

*Veart pleaded "not guilty" and was committed to the Supreme Court for trial.*

A letter written by his commanding officer on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1921 notes that Mr Veart had pleaded guilty to a charge of forgery, was convicted, and granted 12 months probation. He then recommended that his commission be cancelled, and this action is recorded in the NZ Gazette dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1921. Mr Veart retired from the Territorial Forces on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1921.

1923 He married Bessie Laird Campbell (1892- 1946) and they had at least one child, a son Alfred Thomas (1924-2000). At the time of Alfred Thomas's death he had two daughters.

1924 Mr Veart transferred this year from the Leys Scout Group back to All Saints which was in a bad way through lack of experienced Scoutmasters. Under his command it soon regained its strength and efficiency.

1928 This was the year that he founded and led Hawke Sea Scouts.

1932 Leighton's Auckland Provincial Directory of this year lists his name and address as well as his occupation namely, Joiner. One of his earliest military records lists him as Carpenter/Joiner; in fact, a military medical examination sheet shows that he was turned down when he first applied to be sent overseas because he had two joints of the first finger left hand missing, often a give-away sign of someone working in that particular industry. He appealed the decision and won.

1948 He resigned from his position of Skipper of Hawke in June of this year and at the same time severed all connection with the Scout movement after just on 40 years service.

1980 Founder Alfred James Veart died.

It is quite apparent that Mr Veart served both his country and his community extremely well, since he was very much involved in working with young people during his lifetime. He served with the Territorial Senior Cadets for at least 9 years and his involvement in the Scout Group lasted almost 40 years during which time, as a scout leader, he was obviously held in very high regard.

It is reported that the introduction of the Wolf Cub movement into New Zealand was mainly due to his efforts.

He held various senior positions including that of District Commissioner for Auckland.

Mr Veart was given the privilege of commanding the Scout Guard of Honour to Lord Jellicoe when he came to New Zealand as Governor General in 1920 and also for his successor Sir Charles Fergusson in 1924 as well as organising Scout Rallies during their period of office.

He performed similar duties during the visits of HRH The Prince of Wales in 1920 and the Chief Scout Lord Baden Powell in 1931.

In consideration of his long and valuable services to the Scout movement he was awarded the Scout Medal of Merit but he declined it.

Setting up The Hawke Troop and keeping it running as Mr Veart did would not have been easy, considering that the Wall Street crash occurred in 1929 only one year after Hawke's inception, followed by The Great Depression of the 30's and then The Second World War 1939-45.

There is no doubt that Hawke Sea Scouts remains a wonderful testimony to the foundation laid by Mr Veart back in 1928 and that, some 81 years later, Hawke continues to enrich so many peoples lives.

SEARCHES and SOURCES of MATERIAL:

*HAWKE SHIP Photos-Papers-Correspondence-Newsletters-Meeting Minutes*

*MARTIN VAN ZONNEVELD-Email re his stint with Hawke*

*CRAIG WHITEHEAD- Current Group Leader, Hawke documents*

*WAYNE PALLAS - Verbal re his involvement with Hawke*

*DAVE EVERT - Emails, Great nephew of A J Veart, Auckland*

*LYNNE EVERT - Emails, Wife of Daves Cousin, Perth, Australia*

*BERNARD NICHOLSON (Waiuku) ex Hawke Sea Scout*

*PT CHEVALIER LIBRARY*

*LEYS INSTITUTE LIBRARY Historic Material*

*ARCHIVES- N Z Defence Forces Wellington*

*AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARY ARCHIVES*

*AUCKLAND CITY COUNCIL ARCHIVES*

*NZ SCOUTS ARCHIVES Motu Moana (Bob McCauly)*

*ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND*

*INTERNET- General*