

## 12<sup>th</sup> Hawthorn (Manresa) Scout Group (written by Margaret de Vries)

The Manresa Scouts operated originally in 1925, called 1<sup>st</sup> Glenferrie Catholic Troop of Boy Scouts. (In fact it had begun in 1921 with the enrolment of C. Duffus and A. Drohau and met in St John's school but did not receive creditation at the time). It was an initiative of Fr Hearn SJ. At the time it was the first troop of Catholic Boys Scouts in Victoria. Due to lack of leaders, it was forced to close down after two years.

Then, in 1938, the late Fr. John Bourke SJ and Mr. W. 'Gaff' Timlin started the Troop up again with Noel O'Sullivan as Scout Master and Patricia Timlin as Cub Master. Gaff Timlin was Group Leader until 1956.

Graham Langton was a foundation scout in 1938. Obtaining Leaders was always a problem, and during the war, Graham's mother Margaret Langton and Sadie Harris – mother of another scout – took over the Group functioning until the return of Graham Langton from war duties. Graham became the Scout Leader until 1965. Vin Clark and Phil Keon also spent some years in leadership roles.

The Senior Scouts were commenced in 1951 by Peter Fasoli who continued as Leader until the late 1960's.

Margaret (Geddes) de Vries became a Cub Leader in 1958 and cared for 8-11 year old Parish boys on and off until the mid-Eighties. Maureen Kanaris and Maureen O'Connor also ran the Pack until Kevin McVeigh and a couple of parents took over the Cub Pack for two or three years, but the never-ending difficulties in obtaining assistant leaders resulted eventually in the closure of the Group around 1990 and the demise of the longest-standing Catholic Scout Group in Victoria at that time. The cubs lasted just a few more years.



1987 Hawthorn Civic Award

The mayor of Hawthorn, Cr Guy Brown presents Margaret de Vries with the award in recognition of her work for the Scout Movement; photo - Ernie Stermole

Grateful acknowledgement is given to Albert P. Isaacs, from whose 'Scouting in Hawthorn 1909-1993' some of the information above and several photos in this piece, have been taken (with permission).



Six Wood Badge Holders at 12th Hawthorn, January Top Row: Graham Langton (S.M.), Cor de Vries (A.S.S.L.), Peter Fasoli (S.S.L.)

Bottom Row: Wendy Guiney (A.C.M.), Margaret Geddes (now Mrs M de Vries) (C.M.), Judith Geddes (A.C.M.)

Cor de Vries joined the Manresa Group in 1959 and worked in all three sections of the Group (Cubs, Scouts and Seniors), later as Group Leader and District Commissioner for many years until the late 1970's. David Millie was Group Leader for several years during this time.

Many vocations came from the Group over the years – two priests come to mind easily – Fr. Bob Slattery SJ, and Fr. Len Thomas. Then in 1962 Judith Geddes left the Group to become a Sister of St. Joseph. ~end~

(Editor's note: Margaret is too modest to record that she was recognised for her long and outstanding service to the Scouting movement with a Hawthorn Civic Award in 1987)

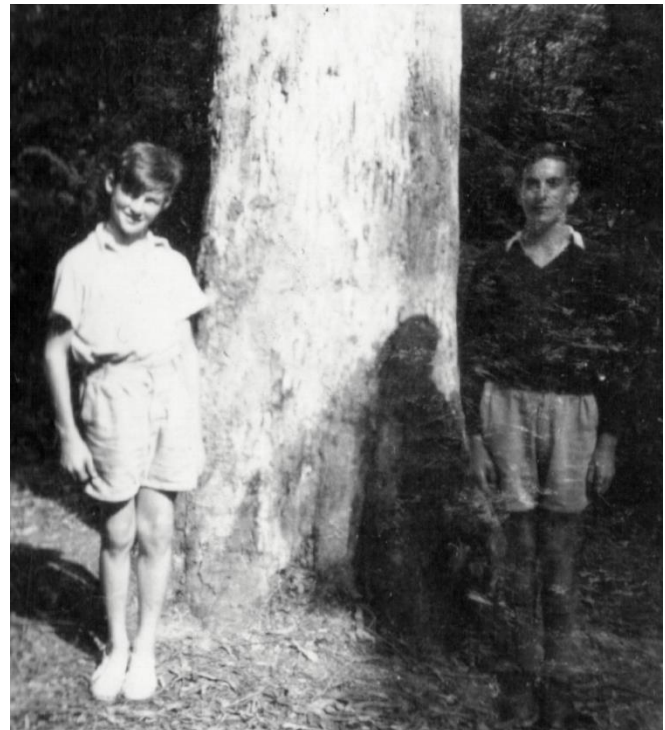


## 12<sup>th</sup> Hawthorn (Manresa) Scout Group - a Pictorial History

The 12<sup>th</sup> Hawthorn (Manresa) Scout Group was an important and integral part of the parish community for many years. As recorded above, there were notable former scouts who later entered Religious Life, and in addition there was at least one Wedding amongst the Leaders!



Cor and Margaret's Wedding 1967, with altar servers Peter McDonnell, Martin Hart, David Hutchins; below Guard of Honour



Bob Slattery and Len Thomas, scouts c. 1946, both became priests (and still are, 70 years later!)



Cub Scout Pack 1992

Standing from left: Sean Brennan, James Fogarty, Andrew Lanigan, Tom Flatman, Alistair McKenzie, Brendan Pegeil, Christian Johnson, Liam Couttie. Seated: Joe Stephens, Hamish Scarff, Patrick McCarthy, **Kevin McVeigh (CSL)**, Jeremy McDonnell, Robert van Der Swan, Michael McVeigh (absent: M. McKenzie (GL)) Photo: Wattle Studios



12<sup>th</sup> Hawthorn Scout Hall

Left: 12<sup>th</sup> Hawthorn Scout Hall (used by Manresa Scouts from 1938)

Below: Scout and Cub activities – "Campsite Gateway" 1966, "Puffing Billy" 1962, "World Jamboree in USA 1960"



12<sup>th</sup> Hawthorn Campsite Gateway  
– Giltoell Park, Easter 1966.  
– Photo: Margaret de Vries



12<sup>th</sup> Hawthorn Cub Pack on Puffing Billy  
... December 1962.  
(The ladies' head showing in centre of photo is C.M. Margaret de Vries).  
– Photo: Albert Isaacs



Kevin McGlynn  
(12<sup>th</sup> Hawthorn Queen's Scout) shows souvenirs & badges accumulated at the World Jamboree in USA in 1960.  
– Photo: Margaret de Vries