



Scout leaders honoured

Ashburton Guardian, Canterbury, General News

15 Apr 2017

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Top award for Scouts after big adventures

The Mirror (Queenstown, Central Otago & Wanaka), Central Otago, General News, Sue Fea

12 Apr 2017

Page 5 • 380 words • Photo: Yes • Type: News ItemClassification: • Size: 224.00 cm² • NZ • New Zealand • Press • ID: 756658826

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Scouting leaders receive awards

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Page 1 of 2



Scout leaders honoured

Several modest scout leaders who have accumulated nearly 100 years of service to the organisation were recognised in Mid Canterbury last week.

It was a happy but sad occasion.

Mid Canterbury zone leader Lori Rusbatch, who joined the Scouts in 1987, is stepping down to help the Hinds scouts until January, when she will exit altogether.

She and team-mate Philip Crozier have been leading the Mid Canterbury organisation since 2000 so there were a few tears when he hijacked another award ceremony to pay tribute to Rusbatch.

The Mania-o-roto group had gathered to see Ian Clough, a leader since 1978, be awarded a Bronze Kiwi and Michelle Brown, who will step into Rusbatch's zone leader shoes, receive a Medal of Merit.

Retiring venturer leader Niki Bota was also recognised for his good work.

Rusbatch said she felt sad to be breaking up a great leadership team, but it was time for her to step aside for others to advance.

She has been to nine jamborees since moving to New Zealand

from Australia, where she originally began with the scouting movement, and witnessed thousands

of young men and women enjoy learning new skills, from how to survive in the great outdoors to life hacks.

She is frequently greeted by former scouts around the district as she goes about her business and Rusbatch says it always makes her smile.

Youngsters can join the organisation as keas, then progress as they age to cubs, scouts and venturers.

"It has always been about the people for me. Scouting has stayed relevant too and moved with the times."

Her swansong with the organisation will be in January at the triennial Staveley Camp; she will be leading the overnight bush tramp.

Like Rusbatch, Clough is involved with scouting in Mid Canterbury when his children joined the Tinwald Cub Pack. He has filled many roles over the years and is known for his behind-the-scenes work.

Brown started as a parent helper for the Methven Cub Pack in 2005

and eventually become a cub then scout leader.

She has taken that leadership to zone level, where her straight-up approach and encouragement is welcome.



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 back



A rather surprised Lori Rusbatch after being honoured for her service to the scouting movement.

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Zone leader Lori Rusbatch presented Ian Clough with his Bronze Kiwi award.

PHOTO SUPPLIED



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Page 1 of 1

[back](#)

Top award for Scouts after big adventures

SUE FEA

Three determined Arrowtown youngsters turned their back on the usual teenage distractions, instead dedicating their time to achieving the highest honour in scouting.

Ben Kunath, Nick Thompson and Jack Wilson, now all 15, are believed to be the first in the Arrowtown area for at least 10 years to receive their Chief Scout's Award, which is signed off by the Governor General, the Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy.

Arrowtown Scouts' section leader Juliet Pope said the boys started scouts aged 10, and worked their way up to the "pinnacle of scouting".

One of the greatest hurdles was completing the four-day Explorer's Challenge, which involved using all modes of transport and organising themselves over 150km of terrain. They set off earlier last year from Arrowtown, heading up Tobins Track to Royalburn Station and camping out on the Crown Terrace. The boys spent the night alone in a remote hut in the hills after hiking for six or seven hours from the Crown Terrace look-out. Their adventure also included floating down



New chief scouts Nick Thompson, Jack Wilson and Ben Kunath, of Arrowtown.

the Cardrona River on inflatable lilos, camping out at Gibbston and cycling back to Arrowtown.

At 14, it was the first camp they'd done alone and carrying all of their own gear, Pope said. "It was really empowering for them."

Outdoor activities were a strength for the Arrowtown Scouts and Pope said there was a big waiting list to get into the troop.

The boys had to plan and run a two-night scout camp and complete 40 to 50 nights of scout camps themselves.

They also spent six months leading local kea and cub scouts, collected pine cones for the elderly, assisted the Wakatipu

Reforestation Trust with mulching, and passed their Level 2 First Aid Certificate.

To top it all off they had to organise and front up for a one-on-one interview, complete with their CV, with Cromwell-based Scouts New Zealand zone leader Les Riddell.

Only 150 scouts in New Zealand achieve the highest award each year, she said.

Queenstown Lakes Mayor Jim Boulton will present the boys with their award on May 31.

Five scouts from Cromwell and Alexandra have also been awarded their chief scout awards during the past year, and one her Queen's scout award.



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Page 1 of 1

[back](#)

Scouting leaders receive awards

At the recent Central and South Taranaki Founders Day celebration in Hawera, awards were presented to leaders and parents from the Midhirst Scout Group.

Group leader Cliff Johns received the Silver Tiki for over 20 years service, Venturer leader Theo Van der Lee the Bronze Tiki for over 10 years service,

past Midhirst leader John Roy received a certificate for over five years service and parents Sally Dodunski, Dean Dodunski and Marianne Drummond all received 10 year service certificates.

Scout leader Bev Heine was also awarded a five year service certificate but was not able to be present at the ceremony.



PICTURED: Cliff Johns, Peg Fawcett, Marianne Drummond, Sally Dodunski, Theo Van der Lee and John Roy with youth members Daniel Drummond, Brayden Fale, Richard Drummond, Zara Roberts and Brianna Roberts.