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Hawke's Bay Today, Hawke's Bay, General News, Roger Moroney

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Advocate South, Fiordland, General News

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Sea Scouts plan 75th sailing celebrations



MILESTONE: Westshore Sea Scouts will take to the water for a special occasion later this year.

PHOTO/SUPPLIED

By Roger Moroney
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The Westshore Sea Scouts will be hosting a very special nautical get-together later this year.

It is 75 years since the group first embarked upon the waters of the Bay during World War II and since then hundreds of youngsters have enjoyed the camaraderie of the group, and learned the skills of sea craft.

Group leader Mike Bishop said the group was planning a special open day to mark the milestone in its history which would centre around its “ship” — the club hall at Meeanee Quay early in November.

All the club’s boats will be out on the water, including its new optimist yachts with members of the public being given the opportunity to head out with the Sea Scouts for a sailing or kayak experience.

“We are also hoping to get many past members along and get them out for a row or a sail,” Mr Bishop said.

The club first took to the water back in January 1942 and, as Mr Bishop said, there had been a lot of changes through the years.

There was a time when the youngsters would take on the adventurous challenge of sailing up to Mahia. “But that doesn’t happen any more.”

The club started out in “a little shack on the Ahuriri Estuary” but in 1968 moved into its new purpose-built hall.

Mr Bishop said more details about the 75th anniversary celebrations would be announced closer to the time but said it would be an occasion for members of the public of all ages, as well as the many hundreds of former members, to check out the skills, adventure and challenges of sea scouting in 2017.

“It will be a chance for people to see what we do.”

Mr Bishop said the club was ship-shape with about 50 young people from 6 to 15 across the three sections and about 10 leaders aboard.



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Scouts' show prep going gangbusters

Three Te Anau Scouts have been so dedicated to their roles in next week's "Gang Show" that they have been travelling to Dunedin once a week for rehearsals.

Since March, Te Anau Scouts Chloe and Sophie Houghton and Venturer Raleigh Lundman have got accustomed to their Sunday mornings looking a little different from their peers.

With the help of willing parent drivers, they've made the journey to Dunedin every Sunday to rehearse with a group of more than 60 other

Scouts and Guides selected to perform in this year's Otago "Gang Show".

The performance is a musical comedy show held by the Scouts and Guides, with this year's theme revolving around James Bond.

The show is being directed by Te Anau Scouts leaders Noel and Sue Walker, who have directed all Otago Gang Shows since 1980.

This is Miss Lundman's second time performing in the show, saying the first time around it was a shock to experience the level of commitment needed to rehearse while living in Te Anau. However the payoff made coming back all the more worthwhile.

"The gang becomes your



Chloe Houghton (left), Raleigh Lundman, and Sophie Houghton have been preparing for next week's Gang Show in Dunedin for almost five months.

PHOTO: Claire Kaplan

family," she said.

"It's a pretty neat experience."

This is Chloe and Sophie's first time performing not only in the Gang Show but in a production of this scale. They recently

started rehearsals with the live orchestra that will accompany the performance.

They said they had particularly enjoyed the parts where they sing and dance among the nine performances they'll each be in.

Their mum, Megan Houghton, said in their weekly trips to Dunedin she's seen them grow more confident and found them "buzzing" during the car rides back to Te Anau after each rehearsal.

Asked if they'd perform again two years from now, Sophie said "definitely".

This year's Gang Show will take place at the Mayfair Theatre in Dunedin from July 11 to 15 at 7.30pm. There will also be a 2pm matinee performance on July 15.

Bookings can be made online at www.otagogangshow.com or in person at the Regional Scout Office at 50 Filleul St from 12pm to 5pm.