CATHOLIC SCOUTING IN NSW

- Catholic Scouting NSW 100th birthday would have been December 2025
- In September 1925 Father Daniel Hogan MSC met Archbishop Kelly on a train from Wyong and their conversation led to topic of Scouting and concerns regarding Catholic Boys joining open troops "*in which no special provision was made to safeguard their Catholic Spirit*"
- Archbishop Kelly asked Father Hogan to establish Catholic Scouting in NSW and be the official liaison with the Scout Association of NSW
- Archbishop Kelly/ priests met 19/11/1925 and a public meeting was held on 13/12/1925 at St Felix's Church, Bankstown to officially launch Catholic Scouting in NSW.

Baden Powell and Catholic Scouting

- Baden Powell consulted English Benedictines and Cardinal Bourne, then Archbishop of Westminster, when he drew up the original Scout Promise and Law

- In 1925 he told the scouts who made the Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome: “As scouts you do not have two masters. Your only master is God and your Church. Your scoutmasters are merely your elder brothers, showing you how better to do your duty as good Catholics.”

Whilst officially Catholic Scouting started late 1925, there was a troop at Lewisham Christian Brothers School in 1909, a short-lived troop at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Watsons Bay in 1912 and 3 Catholic troops at Broken Hill in 1916 and a troop at Waratah near Newcastle 1922-24.

The Catholic Boy Scouts at Waratah.

The Rev. Father Ed. J. Quinn established the Catholic Boy Scouts in the Waratah parish at the end of last year, and in the picture he is sitting in the centre of the staff, viz., Lieutenant B. Stanton (Scout Master), Hubie Arnold (Assistant Scout Master), Michael Krohn (troop leader), and Jack Taper and Jock Rae (patrol leaders).

Archbishop Kelly

In 1926 there was a cub pack called Archbishop Kelly's Own

made up of cubs selected from various Sydney packs

who met together on official occasions

when the Archbishop was present,

but otherwise met with their own packs

The first troop to be registered was 2nd Kensington which first met in late November 1925 and was registered on 21 January 1926. It closed within a year, reopened in 1938, closed again circa 1965.

Within the first year of Catholic Scouting there were also groups formed at Rushcutters Bay (St Canices), Rose Bay, Bondi Beach (St Anne's), Waverley, Randwick, Coogee, Mascot, Lewisham, Haberfield, St Patricks, Pyrmont, Chatswood, Goulburn, Canberra (2), Enfield, Maroubra, Waterloo, Redfern, St Benedicts, Ashfield, Lidcombe, Balmain, Rozelle, Gerringong, Yass, Marrickville, Campsie, Belmore, Leichhardt, Parramatta, Villa Maria (Gladesville), North Sydney, Queanbeyan, Kincumber, Newcastle, Hamilton, Merewether & Adamstown

The early groups were numbered and included

1 2nd Kensington
2 3rd Enfield
3 2nd Enmore
4 2nd Sydney (St Benedicts)
5 1st Lewisham
6 1st North Sydney
7 ?
8 1st Gerringong
9 1st Coogee
10 2nd Ashfield
11 2nd Rozelle
12 2nd Rose Bay
13 2nd Haberfield
14 2nd Marrickville
15 ?
16 2nd Leichhardt
17 1st Villa Maria
18 2nd/3rd Randwick
19 ?
20 1st Zetland
21 3rd Bondi (St Anne's) later 1st Bondi Beach
22 2nd Belmore
23 2nd Redfern
24 3rd Sydney (St Patricks)
25 1st Rushcutters Bay
26 2nd Goulburn

27 3rd Goulburn
28 2nd Yass
29 2nd Queanbeyan
30 7th Canbera
31 4th Waverley
32 2nd Pyrmont
33 2nd Chatswood
34 2nd Campsie
35 ?
36 3rd Parramatta
37 2nd Balmain
38 Newcastle
39 4th Hamilton
40 2nd Merewether (or 1st Condobolin)
41 2nd Adamstown
42 1st Woollahra
43 5th Dulwich Hill
44 4th Dubbo
45 2nd Gunnedah
46 ?
47 2nd Forbes
48 2nd Five Dock
49 3rd Clovelly
50 2nd Concord West or Concord
51 3rd Rockdale
52 2nd Kogarah

From the start the St Vincent de Paul Society was involved in Catholic Scouting. The Society adopted Catholic Scouting as a "special work" and provided many earlier leaders.

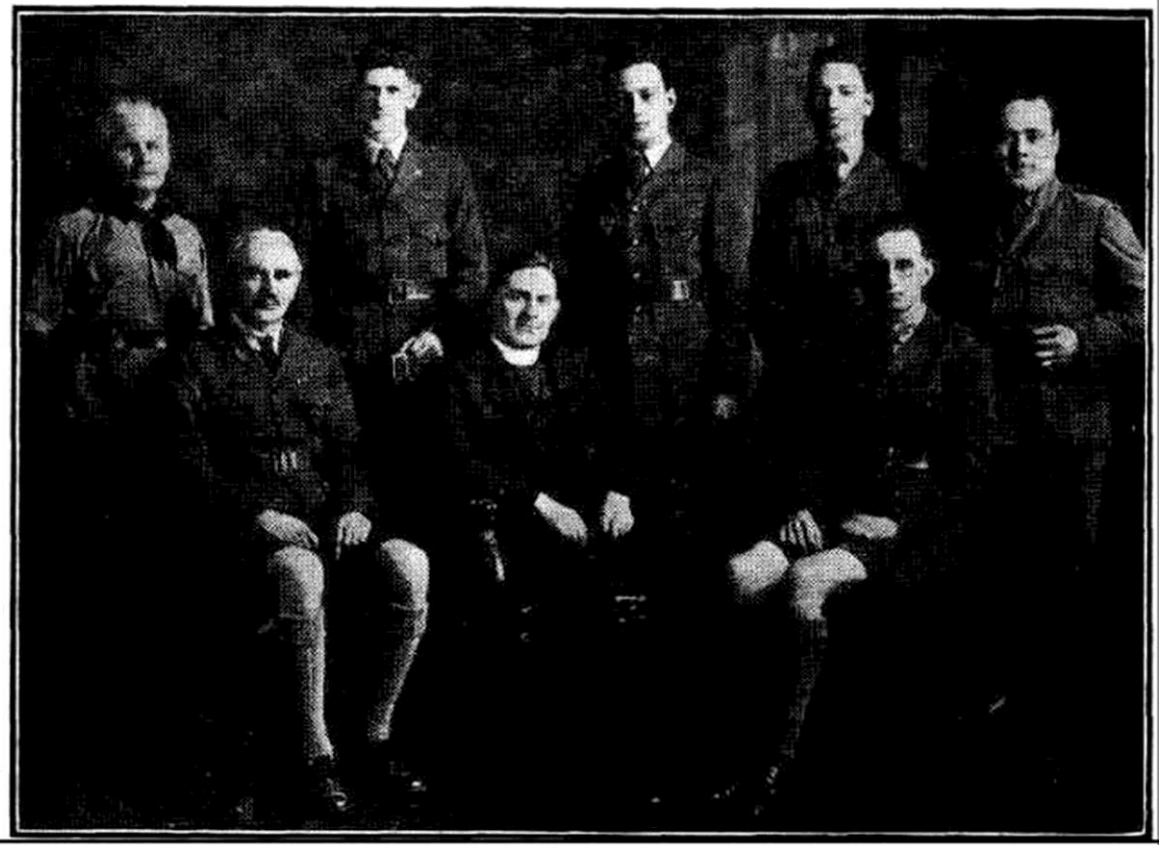
On 25 October 1962 document signed formalising affiliation between Boy Scout Association NSW and the Society of St Vincent de Paul "At the request of His Eminence Cardinal Gilroy, the Memorandum of Affiliation provides that the Boy Scout Association NSW Branch recognises the Society of St Vincent de Paul as the authorised sponsoring body in the Archdiocese of Sydney and in such other dioceses as the Society may recommend and the respective bishops may approve".

The Holy Father's Blessing;

'Dear Catholic Scouts , may the blessings of God descend upon you, all and everyone, and on those who have care of you, leading and guiding you along the road of good'

(From The Catholic Scouts Prayer and Guide Book 1926)

Catholic Boy Scouts Association N.S.W.—First Executive, 1928-1929.



Reading from left to right.—Standing: L. de K. Huon, hon. sec.; F. J. O'Connor, vice-president; G. Hurley, T. G. Phillpot, treasurer; B. Bradley, organiser. Sitting: V. J. Gattenhof, president; Rev. Father G. Bartlett, Chaplain and Archbishop's Representative; J. J. M'Encroe, senior vice-president.

2nd Kogarah Hall

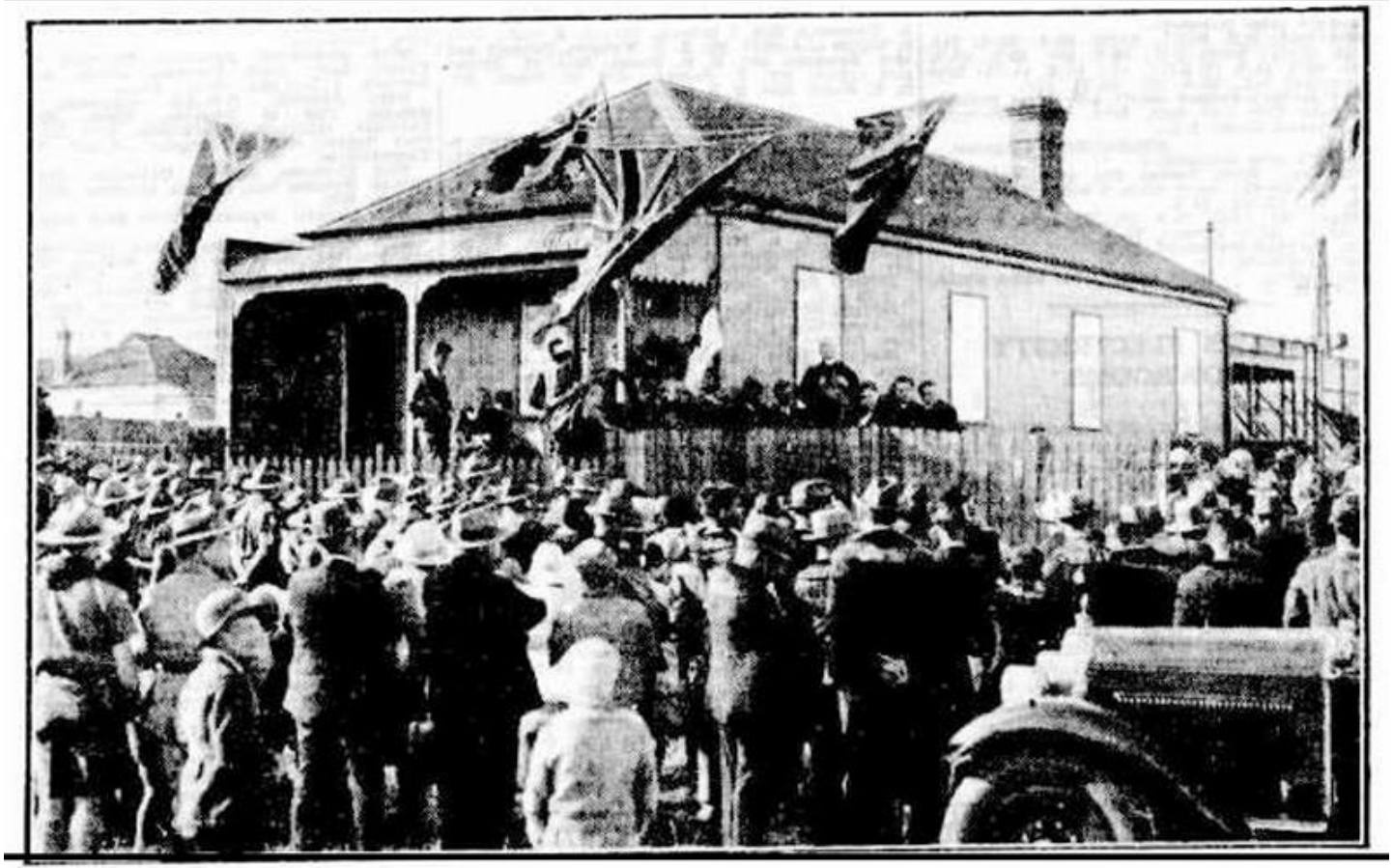
first purpose built

hall in NSW for

Catholic Scouts

Opened 15/11/1930

HALL FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC SCOUTS AT ROCKDALE.



Archbishop Kelly addressing the gathering at the official opening.

Catholic Scouting has ebbed and flowed over the years.

In 1927 there were troops in 44 parishes.

In 1934 there were 21 cub packs, 33 scout troops

and 5 rover crews,

In 1958 and 1976 27 groups , in 1969 30 groups

and in 1974 17 groups.

Some groups closed during World War 2 due to leaders enlisting.

In 1969 24% of the 124 sponsored groups in NSW and the ACT were Catholic groups.

Over the years there have been 146 Catholic Groups in NSW

From 1939 onwards Scouts in NSW Catholic troops wore this badge on the peak of their Scarves

Catholic Scouting Now

There is no Catholic Scouting Association

in NSW (or Australia) now.

Only 4 groups are still operating in NSW which were historically affiliated with Catholic churches

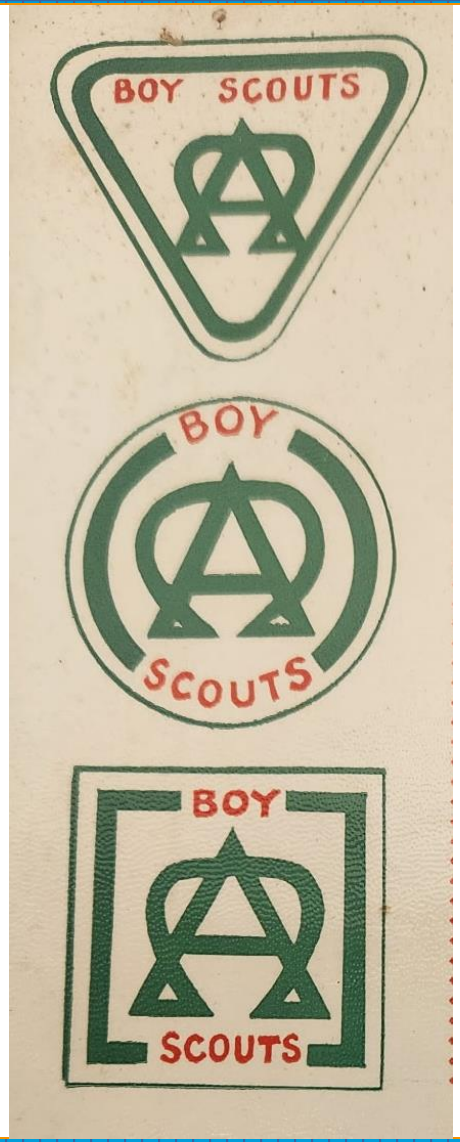
3rd Engadine (St John Bosco), 2nd Gymea (St Catherine's)

2nd Queanbeyan and 4th Kingsgrove

and of these only 3rd Engadine (St John Bosco)

still operates from Church premises

Whilst Catholic scouts did similar activities and badges as non Catholic Scouts there were Catholic specific badges called Ki-Ro Badges.



Below are the 1955 version of the Ki – Ro badge tests:

TENDERFOOT BADGE

1. Know the titles for each of the 15 decades of the Rosary and be able to lead others in the recitation; to be demonstrated by leading for any 5 decades; includes knowing the 'Hail, Holy Queen' and prayer after the Rosary.

2. Know when baptism maybe administered by a layman and demonstrate how this is done.

3. Know where the presbytery and church are in the scout's own parish and the phone number of the presbytery for use in an emergency.

SECOND CLASS

1. Demonstrate how to set up an altar for Mass and know what is required for a Mass kit.

2. Demonstrate how to set up a room for a priest to give Holy Communion and Extreme Unction to a sick person.

3. Have three hours of service on duties in the parish.

FIRST CLASS

1. Demonstrate ability to serve Mass in position of first and second acolytes, or alone. ;-

2. Demonstrate ability to Serve Benediction in position of master of ceremonies and thurifer, and to assist as acolyte at a funeral.

3. Have 12 hours of service. **Time spent in performance of altar boy duties may 'count as service hours.

Catholic Scouting Awards

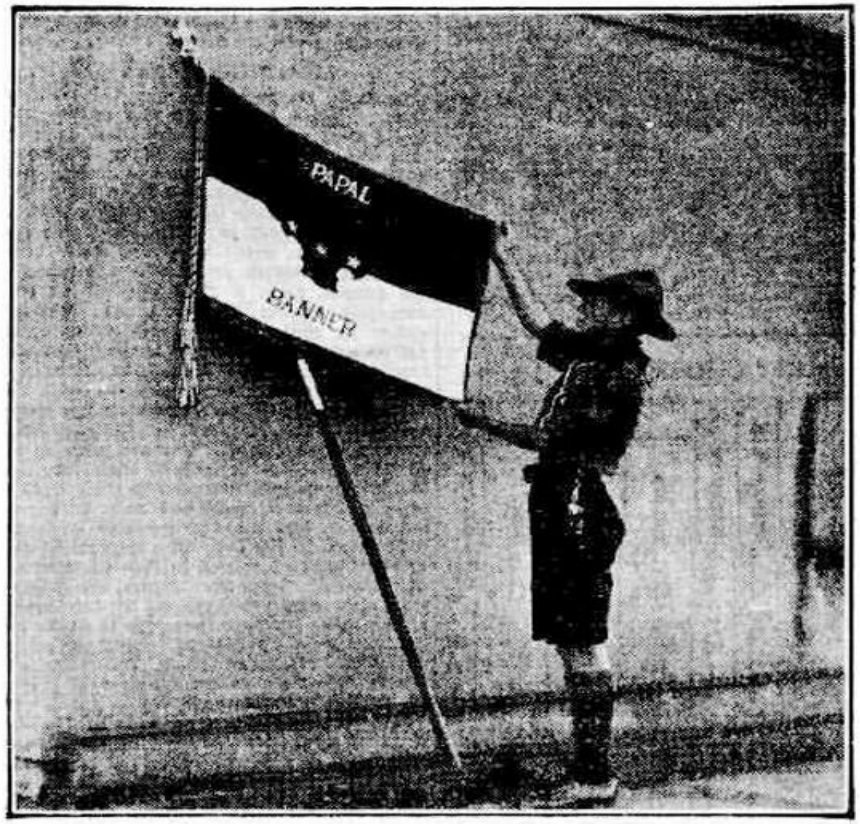
In 1927 Pope Pius gave a medal to be presented to the best Catholic scout troop in NSW. The medal was put into a banner known as the Papal Banner which was competed for at a camp at Easter in most years from 1927 to 1977. Daily open air masses and confessions were held at the camps. The banner was presented at St Mary's Cathedral following a parade of Catholic Scouts / Cubs.

A PICTURESQUE CEREMONY took place yesterday, when Monsignor King presented a Papal banner to the 1st Lewisham Troop of Boy Scouts at St. Mary's Cathedral. Afterwards the boys marched through the streets, carrying their flags proudly before them.

The Papal Banner was described as "*the gold and white of His Holiness with the papal insignia richly emblazoned in black and gold and the Papal Medallion set in the centre. Heavy gold bullion fringed the glistening silk and the whole was mounted on a long black staff banded with brilliant metal*". On the obverse side of the medal was a portrait of the Holy Father, and on the reverse the figure of the Good Shepherd.

There was a later (1936 on) version of the banner which was a light coloured background with a scout Fleur De Lys on it.

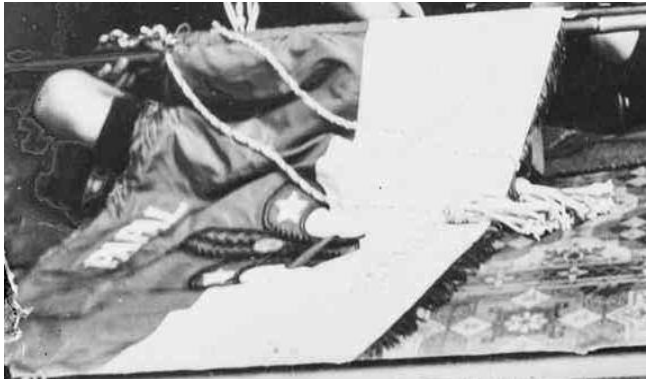
PAPAL BANNER FOR SCOUTS.



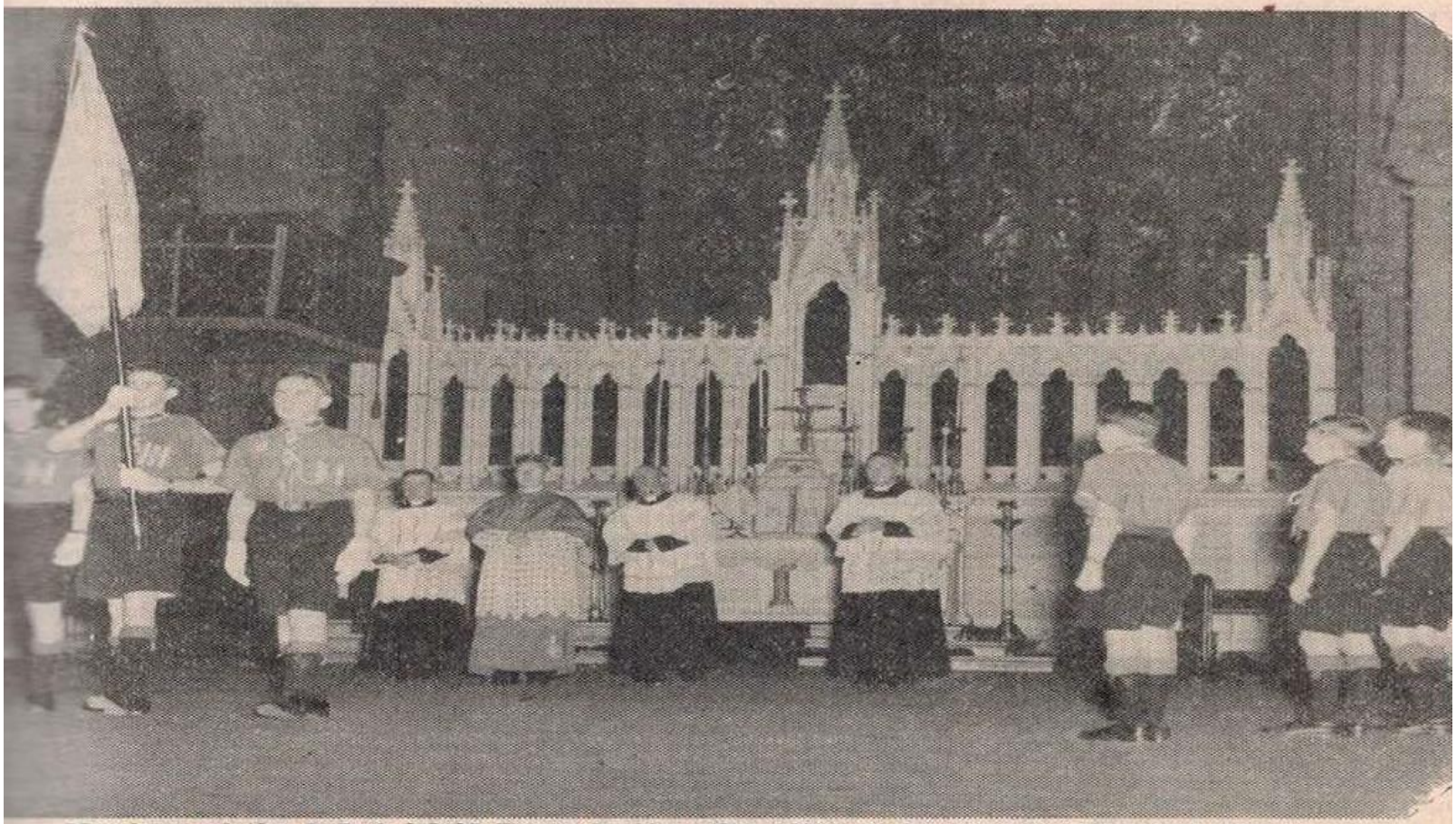
Archbishop Kelly will present the Pope's Banner on Sunday to 2nd Randwick, 18th R.C. troop.

Photos of Papal Banner

1931 and 1935

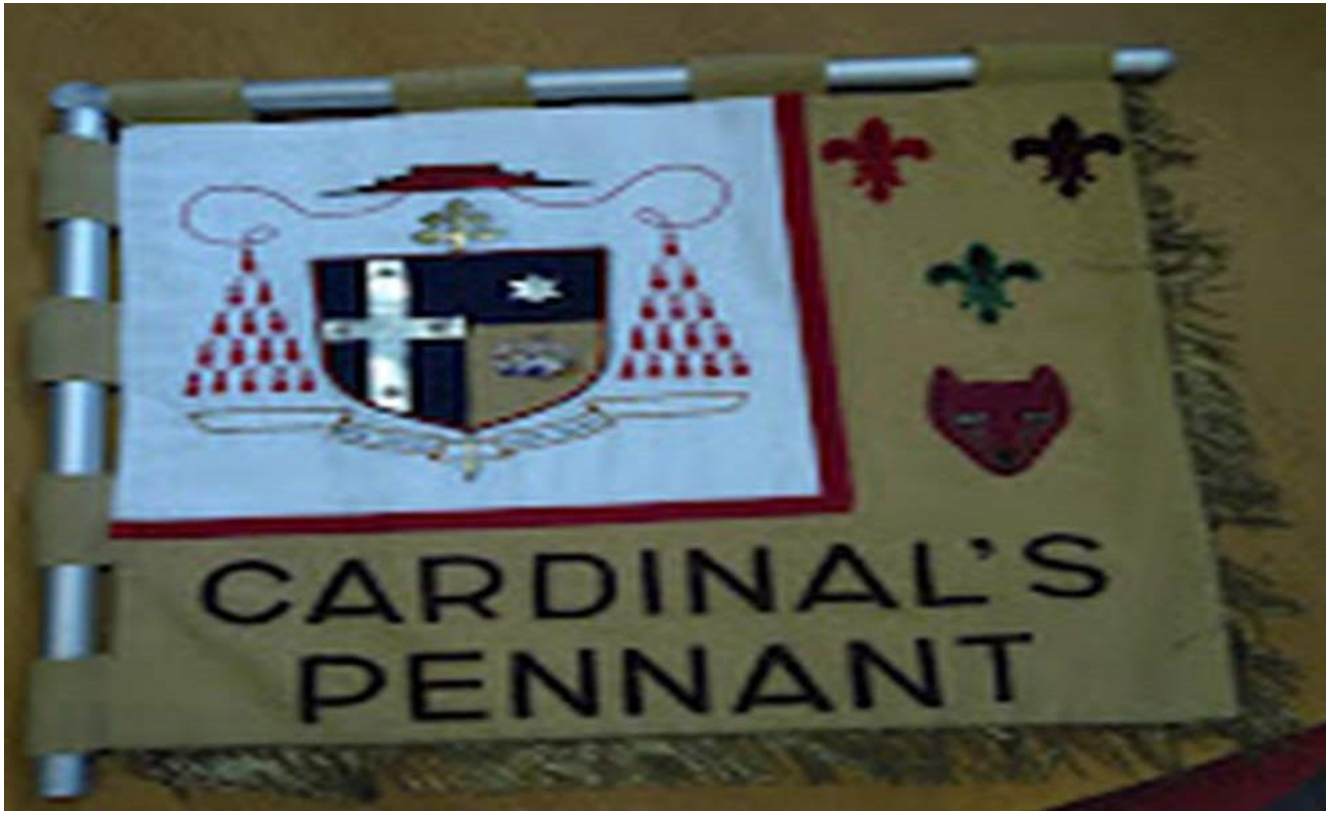


PAPAL BANNER FOR SCOUT TROOP



Members of the 2nd Ashfield Troop leaving the Altar of St. Mary's Cathedral after Cardinal Gilroy (second from left, at back) presented them with the Papal Banner, for which Roman Catholic Scout Troops compete annually. Troop Leader T. Conde is holding the banner.

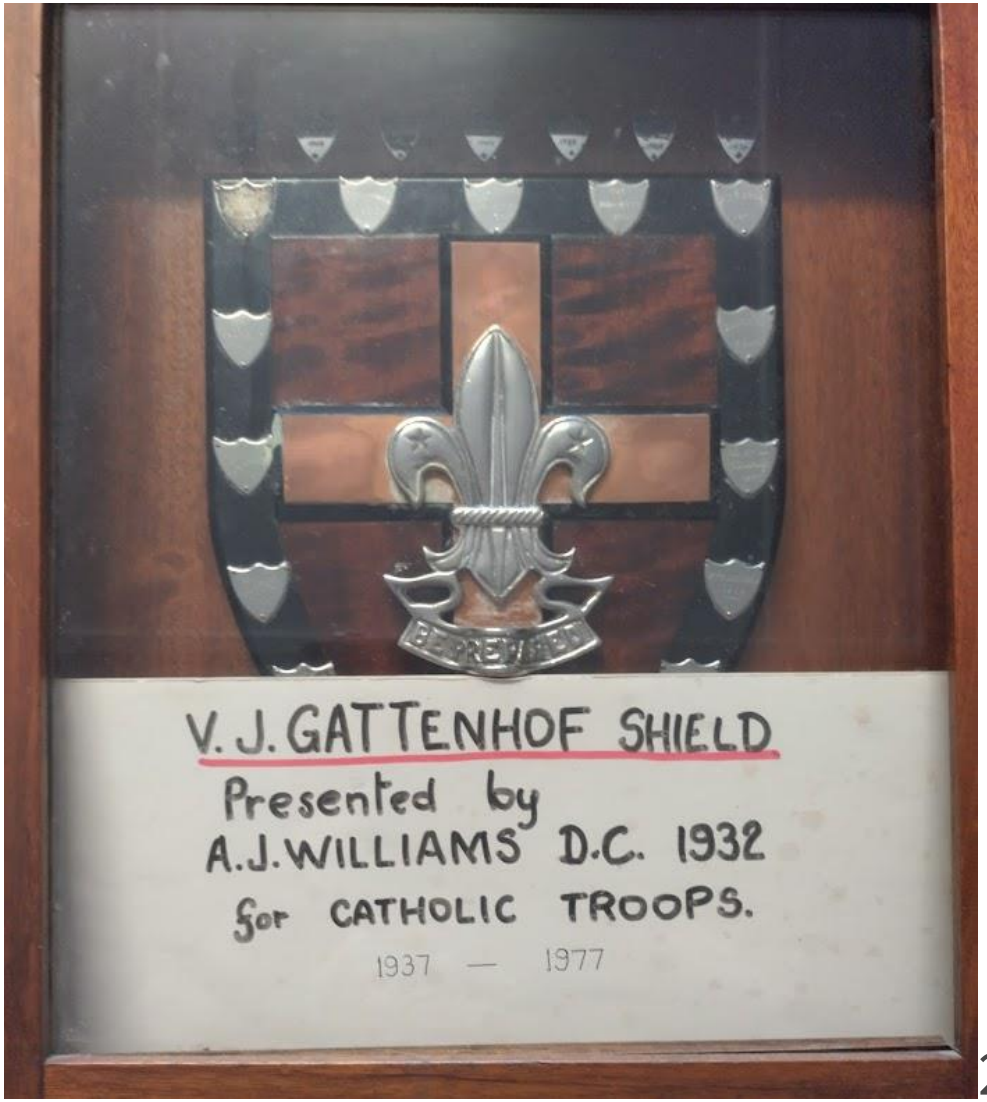
Badge for scouts who attended Papal Banner camp



Later version Cardinal's Pennant - competition for cub scouts

Whitelum Banner for Seniors/ Venturers

Gattenhof Shield for Scout Campfire entertainment at Papal Banner camp



Catholic Boy Scouts parade to St Mary's Cathedral prior to the presentation of the Papal banner and Cardinal' s Pennant. *The Catholic Weekly,* August 21, 1952

Scouts c. 1931 at Manly Seminary, probably Corpus Christi parade.

Timeline of Catholic Scouting Worldwide:

1910 Catholic Scout troops formed in Belguim

1912 Austrian Catholic Scout Association formed

1913 Catholic Scouting started in USA

1916 Italian Catholic Scouting Association formed

1918 First National Scout chaplains in Italy appointed by Pope

1920 International Office of Catholic Scouting formed (closed during WW2)

1926 Catholic Scout Advisory Council formed in Great Britain

1927 Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland formed

1928 Italian Catholic Scout Association suppressed by Pope Pius XI after Fascist Government decided to disband it

1944 Italian Catholic Scout Association reestablished

1947 International Office of catholic scouting reopened

1961 Australian Catholic Scout representatives attended 4th International Catholic Scouters Conference at Gilwell Park UK

1962 Pope John 23rd gave special recognition to Boy Scout movement by personally writing a special prayer for all scouts of catholic faith to use.

Organisations name changed to International Catholic Scouters Conference (ICSC)

1976 Name changed to International Catholic Conference of Scouters (ICCS). Currently represents 3 million of the more than 60 million scouts worldwide .

Australia is not a member

Catholic Scouting in other States

Victoria - 1st group 10th Footscray in 1936, 2nd 12th Hawthorn (1938), by 1948 7 groups, 1952 14 groups, 1954 30 groups. However Freeman's Journal 25/3/1929 mentions Kensington (Vic) troop in Melbourne St Patrick's Day Procession. Still a venturer unit at Catholic Regional College Sydenham. In 2014-20 that school's principal Chief Commissioner of Scouts Victoria

Queensland – 1st troop invested October 1929, St Benedicts, East Brisbane

Tasmania- 12th Hobart (Catholic) existed by 1928

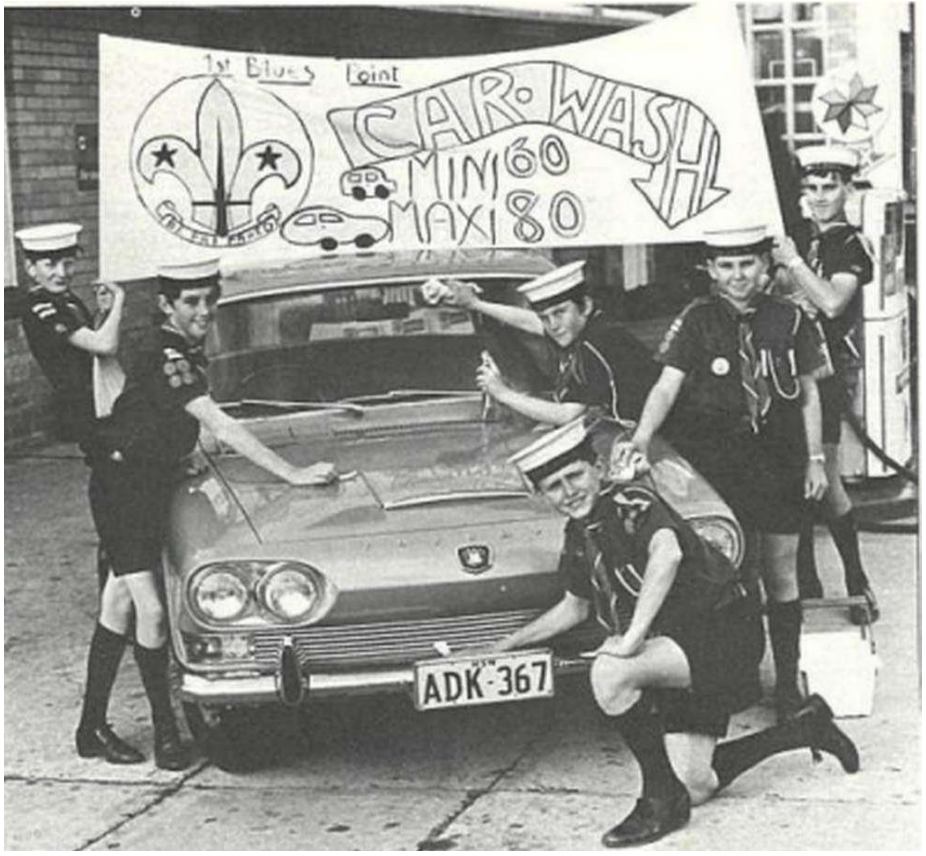
South Australia - 8th Adelaide formed late 1926, Catholic Scout Association formed August 1927

West Australia- troop formed at Christian Bros College July 1926, troops formed at all Perth Catholic boy's high schools February 1927

1st Blues Point Sea Scouts

Scout Job

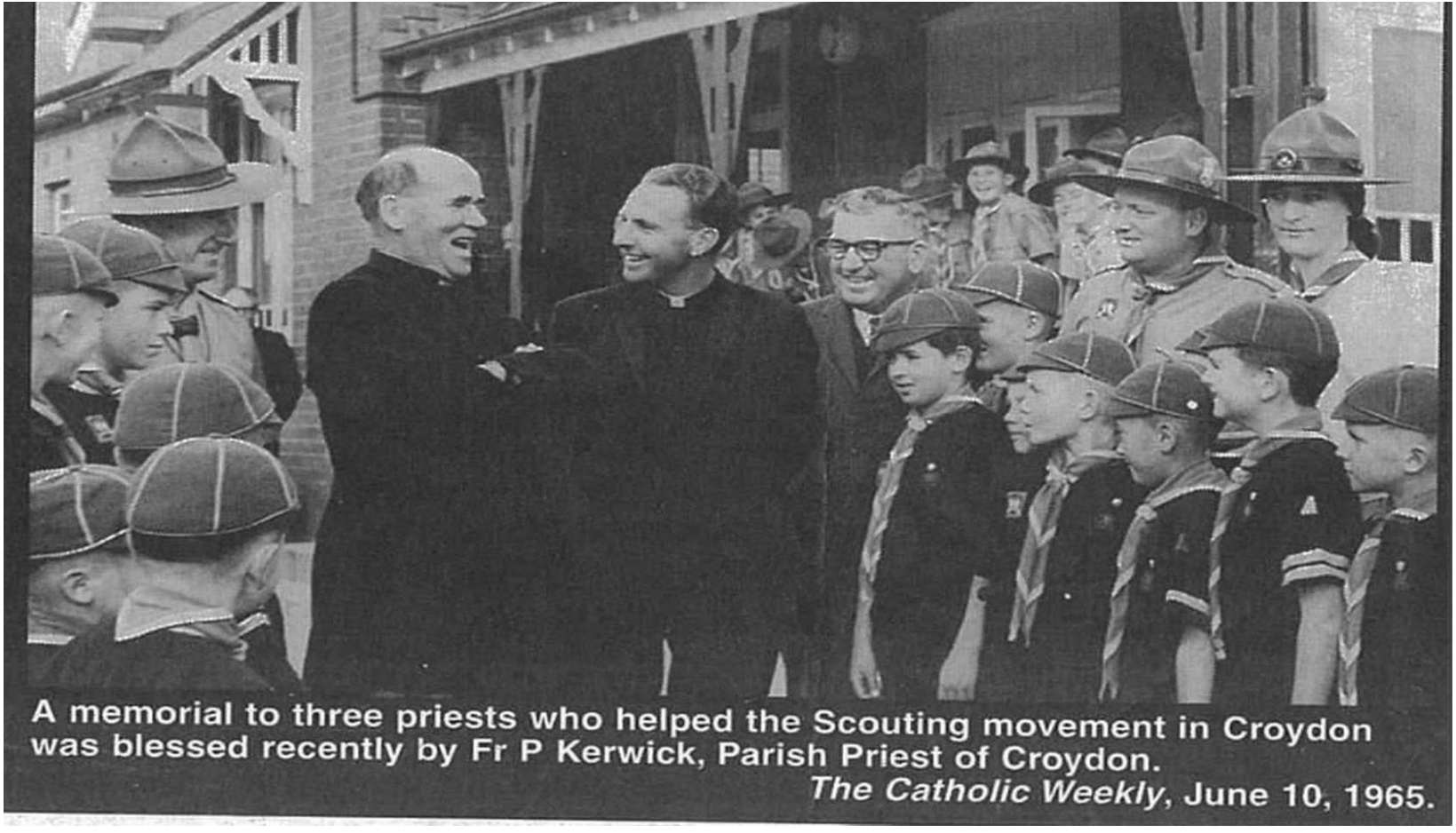
Week 1970



1st Canowindra

Troop in 1933 controlled by Fr Lonergan, not Catholic Scouting Association.

2nd Croydon



A memorial to three priests who helped the Scouting movement in Croydon was blessed recently by Fr P Kerwick, Parish Priest of Croydon.

The Catholic Weekly, June 10, 1965.

5th Dulwich Hill

- Scouts

  in 1930s

5th Dulwich Hill

1947

Perth

Jamboree

2nd Gymea

Cubs c 1958

during hall

construction

4th Kingsgrove

- Late 1960s outside church

2nd Lavender Bay

- Cubs visit

  Canberra

  in 1972

1st Lewisham

Eric Wright Rover/

ASM Lord Mayor

for a Day 1933

BOY SCOUT ACTS AS LORD MAYOR FOR A DAY.

The Lord Mayor of Sydney (Alderman Hagon) instructing Rover Eric J. Wright (1st Lewisham Troop) in some of the Lord Mayoral duties yesterday.

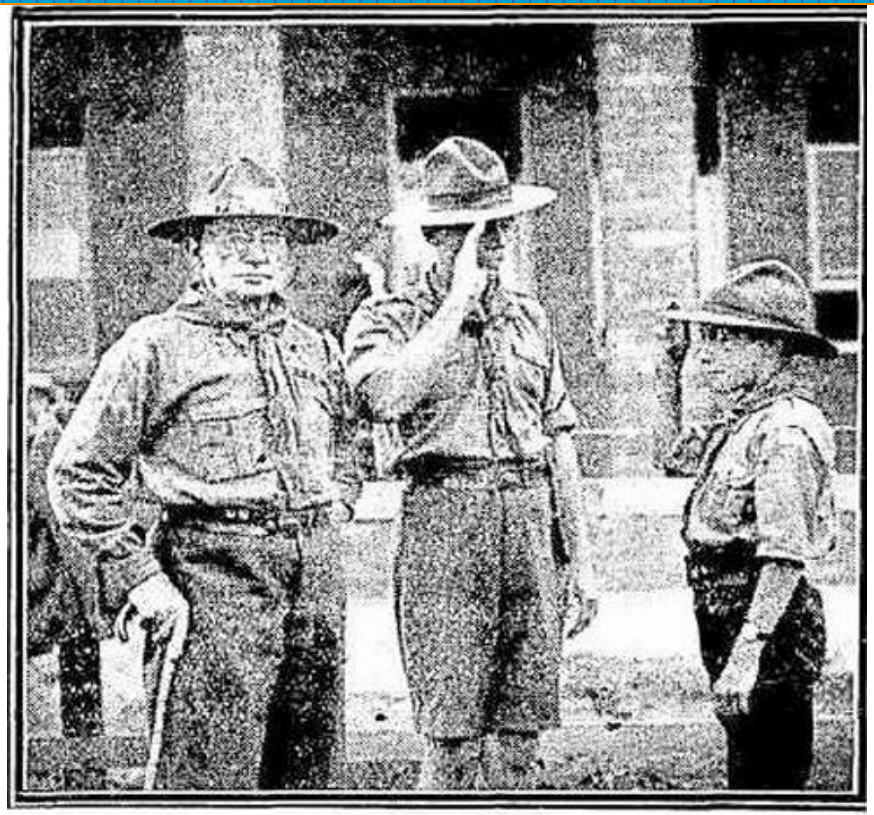
1st Lewisham won 1935 Papal Banner

1st Lewisham

- 1938 cheering Archbishop Gilroy after receiving Papal Banner for 3rd year in a row

3rd Parramatta

- 1933 Scout parade at opening of St Michael's convent



"O.K., CHIEF!"

Scout J. Miller reports everything in order to Assistant-Scoutmaster B. Griffiths at the parade of Catholic Boy Scouts, 3rd Parramatta Troop, at the opening of St. Michael's Convent last Sunday. On the left is Troop-Scoutmaster T. E. Sullivan.

3rd Randwick

Won 1932 Papal

Banner competition

only 6 months after

troop formed

WINNERS OF THE PAPAL BANNER.

On Easter Monday Casula, near Liverpool, N.S.W., was the scene of keen competition between Catholic Scout troops. They were competing for the Papal Banner, which is awarded every year for general scoutcraft to the best Catholic troop. The winners, above, are 3rd Randwick 18th Catholic Troop. The runners-up were 2nd Randwick and 5th Dulwich Hill.

6th Wagga

Funds grow well with sheep manure

For Scouts and Leaders from 6th Wagga a weekend on a local property bagging sheep manure is a great contribution to the Group's funds.

Recently some 450 bags were filled, tied and loaded onto a truck for transporting back to Wagga where the manure is sold for $3 a bag.

This annual fundraising activity is combined with badgework and games, so the weekend is appropriately called a "shamp".

Left: Resting after loading their first truck, Scouts and Leaders from 6th Wagga Wagga.