

# TE PUKAPUKA

ISSUE NO 272 November 2025



**Welcome to the B- P Guild: Issue #272 of Te Pukapuka**



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

The Registered Office of National Headquarters of the Baden-Powell Guild of NZ Inc is: Villa 135/52 Condor Drive, Pyes Pa, Tauranga 3112.

The Baden-Powell Guild of NZ Inc, the Trefoil Guild and Local Scout and Guide Fellowships are affiliated through the New Zealand Scout and Guide Fellowship to the **INTERNATIONAL SCOUT AND GUIDE FELLOWSHIP**, and all members are also members of the International Fellowship.

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Copy for Te Pukapuka should be sent before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month of publication. E.g. for the September issue that would be by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

## **Greetings from the Editor**

### **Hi Everyone**

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. I hope you have a great time and can celebrate in the true spirit of Christmas. The reason for the season.

Ohope and Whakatane are a mass of pohutukawa blooms at present, whole streets have a crimson hue.

The reports on changes over to NZSGF still take some working through but a number of branches have completed their banking details etc. Those for Town & Country Branch will be completed in a week or so.

The final item is one to keep you thinking over Christmas. It is a modern fable written by a Rabbi in recent years. If you want more details Mr Google has heaps.

### **Urgent Notice**

Greetings Guilders,

Murihiku Branch are hoping to have the National Baden-Powell Guild AGM weekend March 27 -29 final details etc. confirmed soon.

I realise it is difficult to plan so far ahead, but would each Branch be able to give me an indication of the number of their Members hoping to attend, as soon as possible please

Many thanks Margaret Blair-Young



### **National Guildmaster's Comments**

Summer has arrived with high temperatures, strong winds and torrential rain, sometimes all on the same day!!

**Scam Emails/Phone Calls:** There has been an increase of scam emails doing the rounds. Please check all email addresses from everyone before opening them, even from people you think will be genuine (e.g. me or Margaret Blair-Young, Graham Johnson, Barbara Dowding to name a few who I have heard about). Most will ask random questions like "I have left my phone behind, or I am out of area", usually asking for a response and then perhaps to buy some gift cards for my sick relative. They will then ask for the number, and to keep it going will say they didn't work and to buy different ones. Mine will start with lesley.bowers@ and the next bit of the address will be quite different, a dead giveaway that it is a scam. Just delete into your SPAM folder. This has been getting worse around NZ over the last few months. Also check all possible legit emails from Spark, ANZ, BNZ, Westpac, ASB, NZTA, Road Tolls, to name a few. For these ones they ask for payment via the 'link' and can empty your bank account. That one is phishing. So, a good tip is to check every email address before opening and help stop these criminals. With phone calls, they usually say that you have a 'bug' in your computer and they can help you fix it for you.

**B-P Guild Name and Bank Account Changes:** These should all be underway by now. I am hoping this was a smooth process for everyone, because I have not had many questions. This must be completed by AGM 2026. As stated at the previous AGM and further correspondence, as of April 2026, the Baden-Powell Guild will not be registered with the Incorporated Societies, and you will have no protection, unless your name is changed to NZSGF.

There are many other changes happening in this process, so leaving this to the last minute will not be helpful to your Branch.

**NZSGF:** The New Zealand Scout and Guide Fellowship Council has been busy with updating processes ready for the transition. The NZSGF Constitution has been altered to fit the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022. It is called: **THE NEW ZEALAND SCOUT AND GUIDE FELLOWSHIP INCORPORATED** 413758 NZBN: 9429042686330

The Constitution will be reviewed again following the B-P Guild transition to NZSGF. There is now a set of Bylaws being developed to go with the updated Constitution and these will be presented at the Invercargill Baden-Powell Guild National AGM as a final draft. These will then be sent out to all members for further consultation.

**National Deputy Guildmaster:** This is to confirm the resignation of Graham Johnson as National Deputy Guildmaster. I would like to thank Graham for volunteering to step in to the Guildmaster in 2024, then Deputy role in 2025, and I'm very sorry it did not work out how both of us envisaged. This position will remain vacant.

**SYF Life Member:** I can confirm that the Baden-Powell Guild has become a Life Member of the Scout Youth Foundation.

**National Baden-Powell Guild AGM 2026:** The 2026 AGM registration forms have been emailed out, and will be included as an attachment with this issue of Te Pukapuka. The AGM will be held 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026, in Invercargill, hosted by the Murihiku Branch. Let's fully support this Branch to ensure a very successful weekend. Registration forms are due back and payment can be made now.

Note: Please don't book flights on the Sunday to leave Invercargill before 2pm, because the morning activities are not being held in the city.

**Asia Pacific Gathering:** The Asia Pacific Gathering was held in Bandung, Indonesia on 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 and there has been a change in the New Zealand rep. on this Committee. My 6-year term was up so the new rep is Helen Mitchell, Timaru Trefoil Guild and B-P Town and Country member has been accepted in this role.

The National Team wish everyone a great Christmas and a very healthy and safe New Year.

Lesley Bowers, National Guildmaster

*How did Santa win the football game? The ghost of Christmas passed.*

How do you know when Santa's around? You can always sense his presents.



## NZSGF Processes moving forward

Some processes have already been discussed at Council and have been put in place.

Here are some of the outcomes.

1. Uniform Options will be:
  - a. NZSGF triangular or long scarf (black with Maori design) will be part of the official uniform.
  - b. The uniform shirt will stay as the current navy, white or red, until after the move.
  - c. The silver fern metal badge will be given to all current members (who don't have one) and given to all new members as part of the investiture process.
  - d. The silver fern cloth badge will be on the apex of the triangular scarf plus one to be given to each member on investiture and as part of the transition pack
  - e. The 3D printed woggle will be part of the official NZSGF uniform
  - f. The diamond cloth badge is the ISGF badge/logo and can be worn on all uniforms (the current B-P Guild shirt badge)
  - g. The transition pack will consist of: 1 x NZSGF black scarf; 1 x woggle; 1 x silver fern cloth badge; 1 x silver fern metal pin badge (if member does not already have one); 1 x diamond cloth ISGF badge. These will initially be free of charge to all members and then become the Investiture pack.
2. The Promise is being updated, which was long overdue – only the final section of the B-P Guild Promise will be changed
3. The National Life Membership will continue with a maximum of 6 members at any one time. Current benefits will continue. This will start with current B-P Guild Life Members and change once a vacancy occurs. This will then come from the wider NZSGF membership.
4. A Registration Officer (person) will be appointed from Council (or a co-opted member) and current membership numbers and date joined will continue.
5. A Membership Register of all members will be held by NZSGF.
6. There will be a NZSGF shop and stock will be kept in one place. This will be advertised for sale through Te Pukapuka.

7. Annual meetings will be held no later than 30<sup>th</sup> April each year.
8. The Annual Census will be taken as at 31<sup>st</sup> December each year, and Census payments to be made by Branches and T&C members by 31<sup>st</sup> March each year.
9. The Annual NZSGF Fee has been set at **\$15.00** per member for **2026**. This will be the only fee required, the Travel levy is included in this amount.
10. The next NZSGF Triennial Conference will be held in 2027, and plans are ongoing, they will be reported as they become available.

Other processes are having ongoing discussions, and will be reported as they are resolved

## **Patrons Patter**

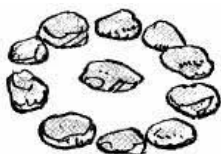
Where has 2025 gone ?? Goodness it's time to send Christmas greetings once again. And what a year it has been especially for some of us experiencing traumatic results of inclement weather.

The good news is that Murihiku should be able to enter and show off our beautiful Queens Park by National AGM time next march.

Due to storm damage all Invercargill Parks have been closed to allow workers to remove blown over huge trees, debri, and assess the safety of those still standing. These trees have stood for many many years and it is always a tragedy to see them go.

Registrations are coming in for the NAGM which is good Have you thought of joining us ? It should be a fun weekend with lots of Fellowship.

Regards Margaret



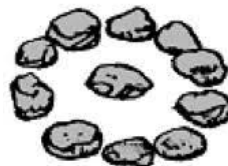
## **Gone Home – Vilma Bernice Cocker MNZM**

Long term member of the Murihiku. Baden-Powell Guild - Born 27th May 1927. Died , 14th November 2025.

Vilma Wilma joined the Guild in the 1970s as a town and country member and later transferred to the Murihiku Guild when it was established. She was a very active member of the Southland Scouting Area. Joining Scouting in the 1950s as an assistant Cub Leader, later the Cub Leader and Group leader of the Southern Cross Scout Group. She later became the District Cub leader. And ultimately the District Commissioner for the Awarua District, which she served for 15 years. For her 50 years involvement in scouting. She was awarded various Scouting service awards. from the Scout Wood Badge to the top scouting award the Silver Tiki in 1986.

## DOUGLAS COLLINS

Previous member of Blenheim Branch Baden-Powell Guild.  
Membership No. 1998 on 24/11/2011.



Just letting you know that Doug Collins passed away peacefully on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025. He was in his happy place at home, as he resolutely refused to move into a residential care unit in Picton despite several offers. Doug and Lynda Doyle were supposed to attend a lunch with the other former members 25/11/25, so a shock for all of us.

Many years ago, Doug was a former member and Canterbury Scout Museum design and display co-ordinator. He served on the National Scout Museum Committee in the early years, alongside, Valerie and Peter Henwood, George Matthews, Sybil Clifton-Moog, Harold and Moira Millard, Dougal Love, Ian Rawson, Warwick Good, Doug Nelmes and Dorothy King. It became the National Scout Museum in 1988.



New 3D printed fellowship woggles

## National Secretary's Report

Another year almost over and Xmas is fast approaching. The silly season is almost upon us. Take care, stay safe, and enjoy the festive celebrations with family and friends.

It appears that many of our Guild email addresses have been hacked. This has been going on for some time now. Most of us have been deleting them and informing members we have received emails from them with a different address to theirs. The type of email address they are using are like board [chairman6397@gmail.com](mailto:chairman6397@gmail.com) the words may vary. The messages are like **ARE YOU FREE AT THE MOMENT, or CAN YOU PURCHASE SOME VOUCHERS FOR ME**, or words similar. Delete these emails as once you answer them you are in their system.

Thank you Auckland for your postings on our Facebook page. It is great to see you out there attending activities and promoting our organisation.

Applications to attend the National AGM need to be filled in and sent to the Murihiku branch by December. This is going to be a great weekend so please show your support to Murihiku by attending.

Glenys

## MURIHIKU

### Murihiku Scout and Guide Fellowship – November 2025 Report

Well, we have done it! We have changed our name. and are in the process with the bank to change the bank account operations, etc. As we had not changed these for some years. the bank requires us to do an update etc. So all is in hand to proceed on our return from Australia visiting family and enjoying a cruise. Our return came complete with coughs and colds

Over the last while we did our annual deed for the. Cancer Society's annual Daffidill appeal at Invercargill Mitre 10 Mega store at the end of August. In pairs, we each covered a 2 hour period, delighted this year to have the stall inside the store and found that very much warmer. We met some wonderful people and givers including several known scouting people.. Not many activities this period. Other events included an afternoon tea at Queens Park. Work on the planning for the national AGM next March 2026 Our annual Christmas gathering is tonight at the Ocean Seafood Chinese restaurant for a banquet meal organised by Warwick.

#### Just a little aside,

I was recently coming back from Manapouri a came across the old historic bridge across the Waiau River and found a picnic and camping ground set up by the former Orawia Scout troop in 1983-84. Orawia is an historic little township in Western Southland, has a lime works and was the site was the former Southend Cement Works taken over by the Milburn Cement Works in 1968. It was complete with administration, staff, housing, hall and factory. Janet and I were very fortunate to be able to buy one of the houses and have it shifted to Gore and re-established as our first home. Some personal interest in this area.

Here's a photo. of the of the bridge and the camping ground.



## Auckland Scout & Guide Fellowship

Today the Auckland Scout & Guide Fellowship had their end of year Christmas lunch at The Waipuna Lodge Mt Wellington.

Thankyou to Steve & Vicki for organising such a wonderful venue,25 members enjoyed a fabulous Christmas lunch it was great to have such a lovely time together with raffles and prizes.

From  
Cheryl Davey

## Little John Branch



*"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away!"*

With a Faithful few members, we continued to meet & greet one another at the home of Graham & Valentina Johnson over a shared afternoon tea.

Owing to the HB AMP Show we did not meet in October.

November Rosina represented LJ Branch at Waiapu Zone Annual Cub MasterChef and was invited to be a Scrutineer.

With very strong winds the venue was changed Waipukurau to Napier however with a warm sunny morning by the time Masterchef was to the winds had increased that a decision was made to move indoors.

Overall winners went to Greendale Tamatea.



from  
start



We accept an invitation to attend Greendale Tamatea Youth awards & Group Annual meeting. Awards were presented from Keas to Venturers. Kaiarahi shared on many fun camps & events looking back over the past year.

Next weekend our members will be attending Waiapu Zone Annual meeting & Whanau BBQ Dinner with special guest Brent Hayward Lower North Island Regional Relationship Manager attending.



## The Bridge By Edwin Friedman

There was a man who had given much thought to what he wanted from life. He had experienced many moods and trials. He had experimented with different ways of living, and he had had his share of both success and failure. At last, he began to see clearly where he wanted to go.

Diligently, he searched for the right opportunity. Sometimes he came close, only to be pushed away. Often, he applied all his strength and imagination, only to find the path hopelessly blocked. And then at last it came. But the opportunity would not wait. It would be made available only for a short time. If it were seen that he was not committed, the opportunity would not come again.

Eager to arrive, he started on his journey. With each step, he wanted to move faster; with each thought about his goal, his heart beat quicker; with each vision of what lay ahead, he found renewed vigour.

Strength that had left him since his early youth returned, and desires, all kinds of desires, reawakened from their long-dormant positions. Hurrying along, he came upon a bridge that crossed through the middle of a town. It had been built high above a river in order to protect it from the floods of spring.

He started across. Then he noticed someone coming from the opposite direction. As they moved closer, it seemed as though the other were coming to greet him. He could see clearly, however, that he did not know this other, who was dressed similarly except for something tied around his waist.

When they were within hailing distance, he could see that what the other had about his waist was a rope. It was wrapped around him many times and probably, if extended, would reach a length of 30 feet. The other began to uncurl the rope, and, just as they were coming close, the stranger said, "Pardon me, would you be so kind as to hold the end a moment?" Surprised by this politely phrased but curious request, he agreed without a thought, reached out, and took it.

"Thank you," said the other, who then added, "two hands now, and remember, hold tight." Whereupon, the other jumped off the bridge.

Quickly, the free-falling body hurtled the distance of the rope's length, and from the bridge the man abruptly felt the pull. Instinctively, he held tight and was almost dragged over the side. He managed to brace himself against the edge, however, and after having caught his breath, looked down at the other dangling, close to oblivion.

"What are you trying to do?" he yelled. "Just hold tight," said the other. "This is ridiculous," the man thought and began trying to haul the other in. He could not get the leverage, however. It was as though the weight of the other person and the length of the rope had been carefully calculated in advance so that together they created a counterweight just beyond his strength to bring the other back to safety.

"Why did you do this?" the man called out.

"Remember," said the other, "if you let go, I will be lost." "But I cannot pull you up," the man cried. "I am your responsibility," said the other. "Well, I did not ask for it," the man said.

"If you let go, I am lost," repeated the other.

He began to look around for help. But there was no one. How long would he have to wait? Why did this happen to befall him now, just as he was on the verge of true success? He

examined the side, searching for a place to tie the rope. Some protrusion, perhaps, or maybe a hole in the boards. But the railing was unusually uniform in shape; there were no spaces between the boards. There was no way to get rid of this newfound burden, even temporarily.

"What do you want?" he asked the other hanging below. "Just your help," the other answered.

"How can I help? I cannot pull you in, and there is no place to tie the rope so that I can go and find someone to help me help you."

"I know that. Just hang on; that will be enough. Tie the rope around your waist; it will be easier."

Fearing that his arms could not hold out much longer, he tied the rope around his waist.

"Why did you do this?" he asked again. "Don't you see what you have done? What possible purpose could you have had in mind?"

"Just remember," said the other, "my life is in your hands."

What should he do? "If I let go, all my life I will know that I let this other die. If I stay, I risk losing my momentum toward my own long-sought- after salvation.

Either way this will haunt me forever." With ironic humour he thought to die himself, instantly, to jump off the bridge while still holding on. "That would teach this fool." But he wanted to live and to live life fully. "What a choice I have to make; how shall I ever decide?"

As time went by, still no one came. The critical moment of decision was drawing near. To show his commitment to his own goals, he would have to continue on his journey now. It was already almost too late to arrive in time. But what a terrible choice to have to make.

A new thought occurred to him. While he could not pull this other up solely by his own efforts, if the other would shorten the rope from his end by curling it around his waist again and again, together they could do it. Actually, the other could do it by himself, so long as he, standing on the bridge, kept it still and steady.

"Now listen," he shouted down. "I think I know how to save you." And he explained his plan. But the other wasn't interested.

"You mean you won't help? But I told you I cannot pull you up myself, and I don't think I can hang on much longer either." "You must try," the other shouted back in tears. "If you fail, I die."

The point of decision arrived. What should he do? "My life or this other's?" And then a new idea. A revelation. So new, in fact, it seemed heretical, so alien was it to his traditional way of thinking.

"I want you to listen carefully," he said, "because I mean what I am about to say. I will not accept the position of choice for your life, only for my own; the position of choice for your own life I hereby give back to you." "What do you mean?" the other asked, afraid.

"I mean, simply, it's up to you. You decide which way this ends. I will become the counterweight. You do the pulling and bring yourself up. I will even tug a little from here." He began unwinding the rope from around his waist and braced himself anew against the side.

"You cannot mean what you say," the other shrieked. "You would not be so selfish. I am your responsibility. What could be so important that you would let someone die? Do not do this to me."

He waited a moment. There was no change in the tension of the rope. "I accept your choice," he said, at last, and freed his hands.