

Nº. 5 DISTRICT

The district as we know it had very humble beginnings. The first scouts to be registered were the brothers IAN AND KELVAN STEEL on 26TH MARCH 1913, but this was only after it was decided to form the Victorian Headquarters in 1913. Prior to this, individual scouts were known as 'Lone Scouts' and went on to form their own patrols.

The earliest reports of these patrols have been found in early newspapers. It was reported that on the 25th September 1909 two patrols from an Ascot Vale Troop camped at 'Fishes Ruins', Maribyrnong, and they were visited by a patrol from a Melbourne troop.

As there was no need to register boys or groups prior to 1913, it was not unusual for groups to continue or to be started without being officially registered.

The first official registration of a group in this district was 1st Essendon on 27th March 1913. After this date, groups began to form all over the district and this continued over the forthcoming years until at one stage the district was made up of 27 groups.

The then newly formed Victorian Headquarters decided to give their districts numbers for identification, and so 'No. 5 District' was formed. This early district was quite large and the following list shows the groups which came under the jurisdiction of No. 5 District.

1st. Essendon	.....	1913
2nd. Essendon	.....	1917
3rd. Essendon	.....	1926
1st. Moonee Ponds	.....	1916
2nd. Moonee Ponds	.....	1925
1st. Ascot Vale	.....	1922
2nd. Ascot Vale	.....	1922
3rd. Ascot Vale	.....	1923
2nd. Flemington	.....	1922
6th. Melbourne	.....	1922
1st. Glenroy	.....	1923
1st. Pascoe Vale	.....	1928
2nd. Glenroy	.....	1930

In 1935 'No. 5 District' was renamed Essendon District and it was decided to give all groups in Essendon a name and number. At this stage another two groups had been formed, 9th. Essendon and 10th. Essendon.

The name changes to some of the groups are as follows:

1st. Moonee Ponds	became	4th. Essendon
2nd. Moonee Ponds	became	6th. Essendon
1st. Ascot Vale	became	5th. Essendon
3rd. Ascot Vale	became	8th. Essendon

In the late 1940's the district decided there was a need for a regular campsite within close range of the district and five possible sites were inspected.

1. Solomon's Ford on the Maribyrnong River at Avondale Heights
2. Near the Old Iron Bridge in Keilor.
3. North of the river opposite Taylors 'Overnewton'
4. Gilbertson's Farm at Arundel
5. Near the junction of Taylor Creek and the Maribyrnong River, now known as Brimbank park.

All of these sites were attractive but rather small and tree-less. Later on the district heard about the Essendon Rotary's project at Katherine Valley near Riddell's Creek. The camp had been offered to the Education Department but they turned it down for political reasons. The District Scouters and the lay-members inspected the 180 acre site and accepted the Rotary offer to use it for a camp site for scouting. Scout working parties were organized to help with the completion of the camp such as laying 2" pipe from the main creek to the top of the hill.

The camp was officially opened by Chief Commissioner Mr. G. Anderson in December 1950 and the District Commissioner and his family were the first to use the sleeping quarters.

The camp was for the joint use by Scouts and Guides and a committee was formed with Mr. Alan Showers, Mr. Des Nunan and Mr. Jack Cahill representing Rotary, and Mrs. T.A. Alaton, Miss Beaumont and Miss Joan McNabb representing the Guides.

The first Warden for the camp was A.D.C. Mr. Ron Horne.

It was suggested by Mrs. Lillian Farquhar that the camp be named 'Rowallan' after the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, and incorporate the donor's name, and so it was named 'Rowallan Rotary Camp for Scouts and Guides'.

In 1954, Rotary were satisfied that Essendon Scouting could manage and develop the camp and finance operations without their help, and handed over the Title Deed to the district. A Deed of Title was executed which gave sole management to the Essendon District and the first right of use to Essendon Scouts and Guides. The camp was officially handed over to the District at a ceremony at the camp on 13th March 1955.

In the late 1950's a subscription fund raised the money required to build the 'Ron Horne Memorial Chapel' in the forest. It was built from Kilmore stone brought from a disused railway cutting. The original drawing was done by Mr. Keith Walter, a 2nd. Glenroy Scout Master, and the architect was Mr. Des Smith, a 7th. Essendon parent. The tall cross was donated by 7th. Essendon.

At the opening consecration Scout Own, Mr. Ron Horne's ashes were placed in the wall behind a bronze plaque donated by his old group, 1st. Moonee Ponds. The Chapel was dedicated on 19th April 1959 by the Rev. D. Macrae.

A small dam made of used sisalcraft packing wraps became the first swimming pool, but this only lasted a few years because of flooding in the area. In later years a proper concrete pool was built with adjacent toilet block. The pool was opened on 9th December 1961 by State Commissioner Major General R.J.H. Risson.

On 14th February 1951, 1st. Essendon started Wolf Club Pack that met at St. Aidens Church of England in Strathmore, which later became known as 1st. Strathmore. The new groups - 2nd., 3rd., 4th., and 5th. Strathmore were formed shortly after.

In the mid 1950's, 3rd. Glenroy was started from the waiting list of 2nd. Glenroy, and then in August 1956 1st. and 2nd. Glenroy combined as one. Groups from Broadmeadows, Hadfield and Oak Park became part of the district.

On 1st. July 1959, all of these groups became part of the new District of Broadmeadows. This left Essendon with 17 groups, since 6th. Melbourne and 2nd. Flemington were transferred to Melbourne District.

Before the Broadmeadows District was detached in 1959, 1st. Strathmore had split into two groups, 1st. and 2nd. Strathmore. 1st. Strathmore Cubs met on Saturday morning at Napier Park and the Scouts at TOC H Building in Willow Street. 2nd. Strathmore continued to meet at St. Aidens Church Hall.

3rd. Strathmore met in the Progress Hall in Pascoe Vale and were later able to build their own hall in the council-donated block of land in McCracken Avenue. 4th. Strathmore was meeting at the Presbyterian Church Hall in Collegian Avenue. 5th. Strathmore started meeting in a parent's garage in Melissa Avenue.

Later, after a successful fete, 1st. Strathmore were able to build an igloo-style hut in Balmanno Creek Reserve on Glenbervie Road.

2nd. Strathmore years later built their own hall in the same reserve but facing Kernan Street on Church-leased land.

In 1972 Essendon Council annexed most of Strathmore (the original North Essendon). 1st., 2nd., and 5th. Strathmore once again became part of Essendon District. In 1986 6th. Melbourne also returned to the district.

The district as we know it developed from thirteen groups to twenty eight groups by the time Broadmeadows District was formed in July 1959 with ten groups from Glenroy, Strathmore, Hadfield, Oak Park and Broadmeadows. Of the seventeen groups left, two became part of Melbourne District and as well we sponsored the forming of six groups in what was to become Keilor District in 1970.

All of this rapid growth of the scouting movement in the district would not have been possible without the tireless work of all the leaders, lay-personnel and volunteers whose names are too numerous to mention.

Nº. 5 DISTRICT

1ST. ESSENDON

1st. Essendon was formed on 27TH MARCH 1913 after the registration of Ian Steel and Kelvan Steel on 26th March 1913, registration Nº.'s 1210 and 1211 respectively. The first leader, Victor Roy W. Shaw was registered on 16th June 1915 (A45).

The troop in its early days met at the Masonic Hall in Mt. Alexander Road, Essendon, and then later the troop moved to Christ Church on the corner of Mt. Alexander Road and Marco Polo Street, Essendon.

On the 1st January 1975 they amalgamated with 10th Essendon and the combined troop moved into their own hall at the Glen Street Reserve on Sunday 26th September 1982.

2ND. ESSENDON

2nd. Essendon was formed on 20th October 1917 with the first boy, W. Hosking, being registered on 25th August 1917.

The first leader for the group was Wilfred S. White, registered 20th October 1917 (B98). The group first met at St. John's Church on the corner of Mt. Alexander Road and Buckley Street, Essendon. They met in the original bluestone church and then later in the 'Old Manse'. They currently meet in their own annexe of the Evan Richard Memorial Hall at the rear of the church grounds.

On 8th October 1962, due to circumstances beyond the control of the group, the group divided and the departing members went on to form another group which became 17th. Essendon.

3RD. ESSENDON

3rd. Essendon began on 1st November 1926. The first boy to be registered with the group was G. Nicols on 15th November 1926.

When the municipal boundaries changed in 1935, 3rd. Essendon was on the other side of the Moonee Ponds Creek and so they became 4th. Brunswick.

3rd. Essendon was re-started in 1952 and the troop met at the Essendon Grammar School in Raleigh Street, Essendon, where they remained until 1976.

The group was then absorbed by 2nd. Essendon.

4TH. ESSENDON

4th. Essendon was the name given to 1st. Moonee Ponds from 1935 until 1966. This was due to municipal boundary changes when all groups within the Essendon boundary were given Essendon numbers.

5TH. ESSENDON

5th. Essendon was first registered as 1st. Ascot Vale in February 1922. Their first leader was E. Francis Watson, registered on 1st February 1922 (V010). The group met in their own hall in Fairbairn Park. The group became 5th. Essendon in 1935 for it also became a victim of the boundary changes.

Records fail to show what happened to this group in later years, except to say that in 1952 senior scouts from 5th. Essendon went on to form 15th. Essendon Sea Scouts.

This group was closed on 21st. February 1983.

6TH. ESSENDON

6th. Essendon was originally registered as 2nd. Moonee Ponds in 1925 and became 6th. Essendon in 1935.

Their first leader was H. MacDonald, registered on 1st November 1926 (V01077). This early group met in the Moonee Ponds Congregational Church Hall in McPherson Street. In 1947 they erected an army hut in the Turner Street Reserve. This group continued until its closure in 1984.

7TH. ESSENDON

7th. Essendon was originally a Roman Catholic troop based at St. Mary's Church in St. Leonard's Road, Ascot Vale. The name was recognised in 1955 when it became 7th. Essendon St. Teresa's, in Florence Street, Essendon. This group closed in May 1980.

8TH. ESSENDON

8th. Essendon were originally registered as 3rd. Ascot Vale in 1922. Their first leader, E.G. Bullen, was registered on 1st June 1923 (V0265).

No other records of this group were found other than census records, which showed the group continued until 1974. The group was closed due to lack of members.

9TH. ESSENDON

9th. Essendon were registered on 14th June 1931. They originally met at the North Essendon Presbyterian Sunday School where they stayed until they amalgamated with 11th. Essendon in 1973.

10TH. ESSENDON

10th. Essendon were registered on 11th November 1931. Some of the first boys in this group came from 1st. Essendon and 2nd. Essendon. Their first leader was H. Davis.

This group continued until its amalgamation with 1st. Essendon on 1st January 1975.

11TH. ESSENDON

11th. Essendon were registered on 1st. June 1957. The group was started by the Buckley Park Progress Association, meeting in an old wartime asbestos cement house on the eastern side of Buckley Park. They then met for a time in the Bradshaw Street Community Centre until their new hut was built alongside their original home.

Under the leadership of Eric Johnson in June 1963, they nurtured the original patrol of 1st. Keilor.

In 1973 this group was joined by 9th Essendon to form the group known today as 9th/11th. Essendon.

12TH. ESSENDON

12th. Essendon were registered on 1st May 1955. This early troop went into recess a few years after forming. The troop was re-formed in 1963 from the large waiting list of boys waiting to enter 11th. Essendon. The early group met at the All Saints Church of England in Deakin Street. When it was re-formed it met in the same hall as 9th/11th. Essendon.

The group closed in 1994.

13TH. ESSENDON

13th. Essendon were registered on 15th October 1958. This was the original name given to the Burke and Wills Rover Crew, but was discontinued because it was not a complete group.

In 1975 the Group Leader from 1st. Moonee Ponds, Mr. Ted Finch, sought the sponsorship of St. Monica's Church when he started a new group. This group was soon to become known as 13th. Essendon.

The group closed in May 1986.

14TH. ESSENDON

14th. Essendon were registered in 1946. This was the first post-war group. The scouts in this group were run by Mr. John Watson from 9th. Essendon. They met in the old band room at the rear of the Essendon Baths in Queens Park. Later they met in an old army hut, anonymously donated, which was erected in Ormond Park amid a pine grove.

The group closed in 1985.

15TH. ESSENDON

15th. Essendon was formed by senior scouts from 5th. Essendon and were formally registered on 1st June 1956. This adopted Sea Scouting as their special interest. They built and met in a Nissen hut in Fairbairn Park. They added a larger hall to their site in 1973.

16TH. ESSENDON

16th. Essendon, originally known as 1st. Travancore, was registered on 1st June 1928. The group was started by the late Rev. Murray Scales at the St. Georges Church of England in Baroda Street, Ascot Vale. The group was renamed 16th. Essendon in 1959 and also in that year received a gift of a Nissen hut. As they were unable to secure a site for the hut in Essendon, they were given permission to erect the hut at 'Rowallan Camp'. They named it Farquhar Lodge.

Due to falling interest in the group it was recommended in 1976 that they amalgamate with 14th. Essendon.

17TH. ESSENDON

17th. Essendon was formed from approximately 50% of the boys and leaders from 2nd. Essendon, on 8th October 1962. The group meets in Clifton Park and originally met in the football pavilion and the Women's Athletic Pavilion. The hall they currently meet in was built in 1964.

1ST. MOONEE PONDS

1st. Moonee Ponds were registered on 6th July 1916. The group first met in August 1915 with their founder Cecil Stevens, who was registered on 13th October 1915 (A58).

They first met in the old Puckle Street Hall which was the Sunday School of the Moonee Ponds Methodist Church. In 1924 they moved into their new scout hall in Ardmillan Road.

From 1935 - 1966 this group was known as 4th. Essendon.

SENIOR SCOUTS/VENTURERS

In the early years of scouting, special activities for older scouts were mostly confined to being Patrol Leaders and Seconds of Senior Patrols.

Not long after World War II, a new section known as Senior Scouts was formed for boys between the ages of 15-18. This section was renamed Venturers on 1st May 1973, and the minimum age was lowered to 14 years.

At one stage there were Senior Scouts meetings at 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, and 17th Essendon, and 1st Moonee Ponds.

When Venturers were formed it was decided they must have at least 15 boys or girls to start a group, therefore there were only two Venturer Units formed, one at 1st/10th Essendon and the other at 17th Essendon. These two Venturer Units drew their members from the scout troops closest to them.

Later 1st/10th Essendon Venturer Unit merged with the newly formed Strathmore Venturer Unit comprising members from 1st, 2nd and 5th Strathmore as well as 9th/11th Essendon. This new Unit was formed on 14th February 1983.

UNIT SCARVES

MONASH VENTURER UNIT was named after Colonel Sir John Monash and the colours for the scarf were chosen from the military colour patches of the two groups he commanded during World War II, the 4th Brigade to Gallipoli , (black oval shape with white spot in the centre) and the 3rd Division in France (Royal blue). The Unit scarf was adopted in 1984.

STRATHMORE VENTURER UNIT scarf was chosen solely by the Unit which at the time consisted of more girls than boys. They expressed a desire to have a pink scarf and the final decision was made upon a black and pink scarf design. The Unit scarf was adopted in 1986.

ROVERS

The earliest Rover Crew to be registered was Gordon Rovers from 1st. Moonee Ponds. They were registered on the 17th of February 1925 and were named after Major General R.R. Gordon, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.M., E.D. (the hero of Khartoum).

The next registration of a Rover Crew was in September of 1946, formed at 2nd. Essendon, and they were known as the Alan Ramsay Rovers named after Major General Alan Ramsay, G.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.

Two more Crews were registered during the 1960's, they being Strezleckie Rovers attached to 11th Essendon and the Burke & Wills Rovers attached to 13th Essendon.

Of these early Rover Crews only Gordon Rovers are still in existence.

In April of 1981, a District Rover Crew was formed. It was named Keith Farquhar Rovers after Lt. Colonel Keith Farquhar, the District Commissioner of Essendon from 1947 to 1971.

This Crew continues today.

FIRST SCARF COLOURS

1ST ESSENDON:	Black with red edge and Bishop's mitre on peak.
2ND ESSENDON:	Navy Blue with two light blue bands.
3RD ESSENDON:	Royal blue with gold edge. 1926 - 1936. Light grey with Essendon Grammar School colours on peak 1952 - 1976.
4TH ESSENDON:	Black and purple.
5TH ESSENDON:	Maroon.
6TH ESSENDON:	Black with red edge and one white band. Aeroplane propeller on peak.
7TH ESSENDON:	Green with yellow edge and emblem on peak.
8TH ESSENDON:	Royal blue with white piping.
9TH ESSENDON:	Royal blue with gold edge.
10TH ESSENDON:	Nigger brown with orange and white braids.
11TH ESSENDON:	Black with red edge and white braid.
12TH ESSENDON:	Light blue with red edge
13TH ESSENDON:	McDonald tartan with map of Australia on peak.
14TH ESSENDON:	Emerald green with red braid.
15TH ESSENDON:	Black with light blue cord on edge with group emblem on peak.
16TH ESSENDON:	Navy blue with red and white bands.
17TH ESSENDON:	Black with two white bands.
6TH MELBOURNE:	White.
1ST STRATHMORE:	Black with green edge.
2ND STRATHMORE:	Maroon with royal blue edge.
3RD STRATHMORE:	Gold with royal blue edge.
4TH STRATHMORE:	Unknown.
5TH STRATHMORE:	Gordon tartan.