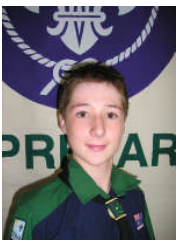




YOUR 1st MOSMAN SCARF

What is the history of the 1st Mosman 1908 Scout scarf?

The scouts of the world today can thank their predecessors, like the Buckskin Scout, and the woods running scout. In the wilderness they had to blend in with their surroundings and the necker / scarf was more of a subdued colour as not to give away their position while hunting. Brighter colours were introduced like Crimson, and was used to tie back their hair on festive occasions. It became apparent over a short period of time that if such a scout entered a settlement wearing a bright coloured necker, they were their seeking rest and relaxation.



The pure black scarf is unique in Australia to the 1st Mosman 1908 Scout Group – the only Scouts anywhere in the country with this plain colour. The Group has its roots in May of 1908 when Charles Hope picked up a copy of Robert Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys* magazine from Swains Bookshop in Pitt Street. The popular book was being distributed in six parts for the first time in Australia and Charles was fascinated by the ideas and activities that BP wrote about. He read the magazine on the Mosman ferry on his way home and gathered together some of his friends to try the activities.

Thus Kangaroo Patrol of what was to become 1st Mosman Scout Troop first met formally early in May 1908. Its members were Charles Hope (Patrol Leader), Archie Jacobs (Corporal, nowadays Secunder), Harry Titchen, Clive Cox, Bert Shearer, Fred Rolls, Noel Hope and Roy Middlecoat. We owe this knowledge to Archie Jacobs who recounted the early days for "The Daily" on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Scouting in Australia in 1958.

Mosman in 1908 was not closely settled. There was virgin scrub on George's Heights and Balmoral where Charles Hope and his friends played "Bobbies and Bushies" which is reminiscent of the Scouts' own "Wide Game". Kangaroo Patrol first met in some stables in Muston Street, In these surroundings they worked out their name, their call signs, their Scout training and their uniform. To them we owe 1st Mosman's distinctive black scarves, since it was an easy colour to procure. They also wore white sweaters which proved to be impractical in Sydney's climate. However 1st Mosman later wore white sock tops as a reminder of those white sweaters,

Why do we have a scarf as part of our uniform?

There are 101 uses for the scarf – it is a practical tool, rolled to be carried easily! Here are some ideas:

No.75: Bag

Useful as a "Hobo" bag in which to carry small items.



No.10: Tump Line

Tie two or more neckers together to create a handy sling for carrying heavy or awkward loads cross country...



No.24: Signals

Useful for semaphore, being visible over long distances.



No.81: Mask

Useful as a mask to protect against smoke.



No.15: Bandage

Useful as a dressing or bandage.



No.15: Belt

Useful as a substitute for a belt.



What about the woggle?

In the early days of the Scout Movement in Great Britain, the Scout scarf used to be tied loose knot at the neck and naturally became very creased. However it was known the Americans were experimenting by using a ring made from bone, rope or wood to keep their scarves together. Bill Shankley, aged 18 and one of two permanent camp site employees at Gilwell Park, had the job of running the workshop and coming up with ideas for camping equipment. He found out about the American rings and decided to try and go one better. After various attempts with different materials he finally made a Turks Head knot - adopted in the days of sailing ships when seamen developed decorative forms of rope work as a hobby - made from thin sewing machine leather belting. He submitted this to the Camp Chief and, no doubt, the Chief Scout, for approval and had it accepted. The American rings were called 'Boon Doggles', most probably because they were made of bone, and the name was a skit on 'dog bones'. To rhyme with 'Boon Doggle', Shankley called his creation a 'Woggle'.



YOUR 1st MOSMAN SCARF

How should I wear my scarf?

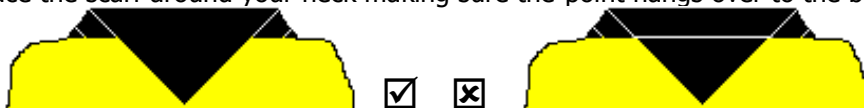
"While wrapping the neckerchief up for wear, he said to wrap it tight in small twists, twelve in fact. And to repeat the twelve points of the Scout Law as you did so. Then as you placed your neckerchief around your neck for wear, the elements of the Promise and Law were with you. They were in fact part of you." Of course, there are only 10 Laws now and our scarf material is a bit thicker!

Our pure black scarf will fade over time with frequent washing but some members pride themselves on having a faded scarf – it shows how long you have been around! So don't avoid washing your scarf for too long as it will get dirty and sweaty with every adventure you wear it on. After washing and before rolling, you should iron your own scarf flat. Parents are not allowed to do this – it's the rules!

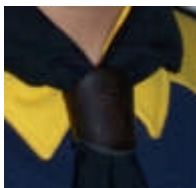
Roll your scarf tightly as many times as you can with the hem on the inside. Leave a point at the end that is about the width of your hand.



Place the scarf around your neck making sure the point hangs over to the back.



The point should be in the centre of your back – this will happen if you make sure the two ends at the front are the same height.

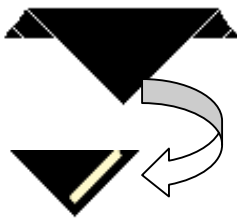


Secure with a woggle worn close to the neck.

The scarf is generally worn under the collar in Australia, but Cubs and Joeys at 1st Mosman often wear theirs outside of the collar as this is more comfortable and easier to remove for games if required.

How can I label my scarf?

Think about it – a busy meeting with more than 20 members who all take off their scarf to play a game – how can you quickly identify yours? Well, put your name on it!! The scarf is yours to keep, so look after it as you will only get one.



The best place to label a scarf is under the point (on the hem side) with a white cloth label. That way, you can easily see your scarf without having to unroll it. Iron on labels are the best to use – they last for ages and are nice and clear.

Don't forget to label your woggle as well!

What if I loose my scarf and/or woggle?

Your scarf is proudly presented to you at your Investiture. We hope that you take good care of it and do not loose it. Replacement scarves cost \$10 and replacement woggles cost \$2.50. Both are available from your leaders at Section nights, if they are in stock. Otherwise you will have to order them. Adult scarves are available for older Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders.

Finally, a thought from BP on something to do with your scarf :

An extra knot in front was to remind a Scout to do his good turn for the day:
When this was done he untied it.