



Scouting Ireland Annual Report 2007

Scouting Ireland is a voluntary, non-formal educational movement for young people.

It is non-political, open to all without distinction of origin, race, creed or gender, in accordance with the purpose, principles and methods conceived by the Founder, Robert Baden-Powell and as stated by the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

Scouting Ireland encourages the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and, as responsible citizens, to improve society.

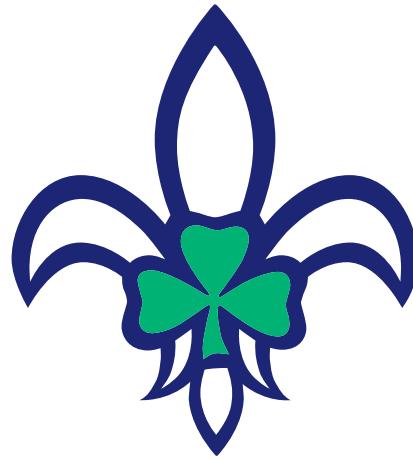
Scouting Ireland achieves its aim through a system of progressive self-education, known as the Scout Method, the principal elements of which are:

- Voluntary membership of a group which, guided by adults, is increasingly self-governing in its successive age groups.
- Commitment to a code of living as expressed in the Promise & Law, the meaning of which is expanded as the member grows towards maturity.
- The provision of a wide range of attractive, constructive and challenging activities, including opportunities for adventure and exploration both indoors and outdoors.
- The provision of opportunities for leadership and responsibility. Learning by doing. Encouragement of activity in small groups.
- An award scheme, which encourages participation in its full range of activities and provides recognition of individual and group achievements.





Scouting Ireland



Scouting Ireland wishes to acknowledge the support and assistance received from the
Department of Education and Science - Youth Affairs Section

Under the National Development Plan 2002 - 2008



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Foreword from the Chief Scout



*Martin Burbridge
Chief Scout*

There is no doubt that 2007 was an historic year for Scouting. We celebrated the Centenary of our wonderful movement in many ways including a wide variety of Youth Programme events and a huge number of different events at local level throughout Ireland. I want to thank and congratulate all those who participated in and organised all of those events they were a tribute to your ingenuity and very high standards.

Our Patron President McAleese hosted a reception for Scouting Ireland in Áras na Uachtaráin which representatives from the troops going to the world jamboree attended. The President was fulsome in her praise of the work Scouting Ireland undertakes with and for young people and she exhorted us to continue to work in our local communities for another century at least.

One of the highlights of 2007 was the World Scout Jamboree in Essex. I had never been to a world jamboree before and I can say that it was a magical and very enjoyable experience. All of the Scouts in the Irish contingent acquitted themselves exceptionally well and shared fantastic experiences with scouts from many countries. We were all incredibly proud when the De La Salle Pipe Band entered the arena on Sunrise Day and played soulful music to lead the ceremony. We were equally proud when a very talented group of Irish Scouts lead the celebrations at the post closing ceremony concert. They were brilliant!



Later in the year the Conference and Centenary Ball in Croke Park were excellent and allowed people to mix, chat and literally have a ball in each others company.

But 2007 was historic for other reasons too. It was the year that we turned the corner in terms of providing more support for Scouters on the ground by recruiting 10 Group Support Staff. I have no doubt that they will provide fantastic support at local level over the coming years. We also made progress with many other projects including the new lodge and shower block in Larch Hill, provision of grants for a number of local campsites, proposals on Castle Saunderson and the launch of the new database, warts and all. Now that people have started using the new database we will be able to get the bugs sorted out and to introduce additional features that will assist Scout Groups.

I want to say a huge thank you to all of our Scouters, Parents and Friends Support Groups and Adults who work at County, Provincial and National level and to all our Youth Members. Each of you contributes very significantly to Scouting and you are wonderful ambassadors for our Movement.



I would also like to pay special tribute to everyone who gave so much support to the development of a New Youth Programme for Scouting Ireland. This has been a very complex, difficult and time consuming project but we will reap the benefits of all the work and robust discussion that has occurred to date. I believe that in 2008 we will be able to engage in further fruitful discussions and consultations that will result in Scouting Ireland having an excellent New Youth Programme to kick start the 2nd century of Scouting in Ireland. I would exhort everyone to become engaged in this project to ensure that we can



deliver the best possible programme for our Youth Members. In looking to 2008 we have the opportunity to show the people of Ireland how relevant Scouting is today. The highlight of the year will be Jamboree 2008 and I hope that everyone will be able to participate in it even if only for a day or two. It will be a feast of Scouting with lots of fun, challenge, skills and friendship on offer so please do try to get there at some stage.

The National Management Committee is working on a National Development Plan for Scouting Ireland, the main focus of which will be on development initiatives at local Scout Group level. We will also be looking at other ways of providing resources and materials for Scouters on the ground including some novel innovations in the area of adult training.

We have to continuously work on Child Protection in order to ensure that the young people in our charge can enjoy scouting in a safe environment. We will continue the vetting and training

of Scouters and I cannot overstate the importance of this work. As it happens this is also the most effective way of protecting our adult members, so please cooperate as fully as possible with this initiative.

I want to thank everyone for the wonderful hospitality extended to me as I travel to events throughout the country. I never cease to be amazed at the staggering amount of effort put in by so many volunteers and by our Youth Members. I want to ask the adult members of Scouting Ireland to please continue to do your best on behalf of our youth members and never forget that you are a positive influence on them and help them to develop themselves.

Martin Burbridge
Chief Scout





Report of the National Secretary



*Michael Devins
National Secretary*



As I approach the last year of my three year term I would like to review some of the issues which I have tried to bring to the forefront over the last two years and give you some idea of my plans for the future.

National Management Committee

The National Management Committee is the body which is tasked by our Association to exercise all powers of National Council between meetings of the National Council.

The National Management Committee met eight times in 2007 and three of those meetings were two day meetings.

Over the course of the year we continued to meet with Provincial Management Teams. By our last meeting in 2007 we had met all except the Western Province and this meeting will be held at our Spring 2008 meeting which will be held in the West. We also managed to bring the committee out of Larch Hill on three occasions, once in Swords, once in Dundalk

and the other in Saint Patrick's College Drumcondra as part of Scout Show weekend. We hope to continue this process throughout 2008. We have also welcomed sub-committees to our meetings to keep us updated on issues such as the Jamboree 2008 and Castle Saunderson Project.

During 2007 a number of the original NMC members had to step down as their term of office was complete. I would like to pay tribute to their efforts over the last three years especially in helping to develop a new management structure for Scouting in Ireland with the NMC.

I would like to welcome the new members who have joined us especially our under 26 members.

During National Council in 2008 we will have one under 26 position to fill and I would urge all of you to encourage your under 26 year old members to consider putting their names forward for election.





Database

In early 2007 a committee comprising of The CEO, the Financial Controller, the Registrar, Dominic Byrne, Programme Commissioner (Programme Development) and myself set about finding a software provider to deliver us with a new database. After a great deal of investigation we selected a Company called "Tekenable" who had completed a number of similar projects over the last number of years.

The delivery date for completion of the project was to be Oct 2007. Unfortunately due to issues within the Company itself the project was not completed until early Dec 2007 at which stage we had to roll out the database without the level of testing that we would have liked.

However at the time of writing this report at the end of Jan 2008 the project is substantially completed and will be of major benefit to Groups and Counties in the years to come. This data base will give each group a single data base which if kept updated will provide significant data to allow it to plan for the future and run its administration with ease.

Insurance

We had an open competition for our Insurance business this year. Three brokers were considered while two attended for interview. With a far expanded level of cover we have come in below budget and below last year's target. We placed great emphasis with the broker on improving information to membership and together with Charlie McGuinness and his Risk Management team we hope to achieve this during 2008.



International

International Commissioner Ann Foley

Team Members

Sue Thomas, Mark O Callaghan, Chris Kearns, Cian Timmons, Martin Thomson,
Provincial Representatives: Northern, Mandy McCann; Southern, Jennifer O Regan; South Eastern, Aidan Brennan; North Eastern, Alan Walsh; Western, Henry Doherty; Therese Bermingham, Vice Chairman of the World Scout Committee (WSC); John Lawlor, World Youth Committee; James O'Toole, Contingent Leader 21st World Scout Jamboree.

Gifts of Peace

The Gifts of Peace Project was launched by the World Scout Committee as part of the centenary celebrations. The Project Leader was former Chief Scout Mr Peter Dixon, with the assistance of Michael Foley and Collie Kavanagh. The Project consisted of a number of elements - Good Deed Notes, Scout Link and the Aqua Boxes. As a result of the project a donation was made to the Rotary Club of Ireland in 2007. This donation was used to buy large and medium boxes, which will be distributed to countries experiencing national disasters.

'Leaders Not Followers' Poster Campaign

A 48 sheet poster campaign entitled 'Leaders Not Followers' was launched in February 2007. This initiative presented 6 different images over 74 poster sites. Four of the posters were international and two were Irish stories. The campaign was sponsored by Titan Ireland and P & D Printers. The projects success culminated in a presentation of appreciation to John Keenan Irish Rail, Niall Conway, Steven Dunn of Titan Outdoor Advertising and Ann Foley by William F Cronk Chairman of the World Scout Foundation at their Centenary dinner hosted by King Karl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.





The 21st World Scout Jamboree

James O Toole was the contingent leader for the 21st World Scout Jamboree in the United Kingdom. The Contingent was made up of over 400 Scouts. This was the largest contingent ever to attend a World Scout Jamboree. Many congratulations to James and his team for a very successful event.



21st World Scout Jamboree

When assuming any role in Scouting, we are lucky enough to be able to call upon the wealth of knowledge and experience of those who have taken a similar role before. When you consider that the last 5 Contingents to a World Scout Jamboree (keep in mind that this covers a 20 year period) have only had a Contingent size of less than 150, then becoming the Leader for a Contingent in excess of 400 becomes a mammoth task which doesn't have a lot of reference points in Scouting Ireland. The job evolved over the lifetime of the Contingent and only through the commitment of the Contingent Team Members and Troop Leaders did the task become manageable for all.

We set out to offer the best World Jamboree Experience to the greatest amount of available Scouts within Scouting Ireland and we certainly achieved that! Having eight Troops represent Ireland at the WSJ is a remarkable achievement. It will give Scouting Ireland an infectious enthusiasm at Scout level for what Scouting is all about and give a much needed boost to the image of Scouting within Scouting Ireland and outside of Scouting.



Leading a Troop at the Jamboree is a difficult but rewarding task. The sleepless nights, the heartaches and pains all fade into insignificance when you get to the Jamboree and see the bright faces of the young people in your care at the WSJ. I would like to thank Tony Smith (Avoca), Greg Boyd (Brosna), Derek Long (Dalua), Noel O'Connor (Deel), Trevor Conroy (Eske), Stephanie McCann (Laune) and Pat McCartin (Moy) along with all of their Assistant Leaders for all of their work and selfless dedication with the Troops at the Jamboree.

To quote a report I recently received from some of the participating Scouts from Scouting Ireland at the World Scout Jamboree:

The celebration of the centenary of Scouting had begun.... 43,000 people gathered at Chelmsford... There were tents and marquees and gateways and flags as far as the eye could see....There were different coloured uniforms everywhere!!! It was amazing. There was so much to do and see, one did not know where to turn... Campsites to set up, campsites to visit... which to do first?? Throughout the Jamboree there were festivals of food and culture, displays to see, badges to swap, new friends to meet, dinners to attend, photos to take, souvenirs to buy.... And that was before the programme started. We were given choices of Terraville and Aquaville, World Villages and Global Development villages, the Gilwell Adventure, Starburst and of course Splash..... they sounded so exotic... what were they... Only answer was to just go!!

Every day 12,000 scouts were bussed off to places like Gilwell where we took part in Challenge Valley, Mountain and Motion and Discovery. We spent the day climbing and abseiling, running assault courses and getting a chance to see BP's car and caravan. Some of the 12,000 were shipped off to Splash where they were treated to kayaking, sailing and raft building; there were 500 craft on the water at any given time.... Incredible!!! If you weren't swinging out of trees or getting wet you were involved in a service activity for the local community. 87 years of work was done for local projects in the 8 days.....If that is not the essence of Scouting, then what is????!!



The mammoth task before the Jamboree was the administration of the Contingent. Lessons have been learned on all fronts throughout the Jamboree and none more so than in Administration. The tireless work of one person brought about organising everyone in the background to get them to the Jamboree and see that the information needed from each person was captured and actioned. That person was Pauline Lucas whose only true reward for this work is not of this world and I will be forever grateful.

In addition to our young people's participation at the Jamboree was our International Service Team (IST)' involvement. Our IST proved that Scout's from Ireland aren't 'Paddies' but do a job in a competent and professional manner that made them the stars of the show. Our World Village Team made us proud to be Irish and gave a little taste of home to the rest of the world. Brendan Lynch, who was also Deputy Contingent Leader, headed this fantastic team and I am proud to have worked with someone so dedicated.

I have only mentioned a handful of names because the list is endless, but to everyone else thank you for your work and effort on behalf of the Contingent. I must acknowledge the Chief Scout, Martin Burbridge, the National Officers and the International Commissioner for all of their help and support. My report to Scouting Ireland is simple – on the biggest World Stage of all, we did you proud!

James O'Toole
Contingent Leader - Scouting Ireland Contingent to the 21st World Scout Jamboree

Irish International Scout Jamboree 2008 - 100 Years of Irish Scouting

Christy McCann was appointed as Camp Chief to run the 2008 International Camp, celebrating 100 years of Irish Scouting. A lot of International Promotion took place during the Jamboree in the UK. Sue Thomas was appointed the International Co-ordinator



Boy Scouts of America

The Boys Scouts of America are advertising their Camp Staff Programme, which is a great opportunity for young leaders to spend their summer holidays working in America. There are 3 BSA troops attending the Irish Jamboree and they are also sending an official national group of ventures. We intend to explore more opportunities with the BSA .

Courses Conference and Seminars

The Association Attended:-

European Conference Slovenia

The National Secretary and International Commissioner, Clare McAroe and Richard Scriven attended the European Regional Scout Conference. The conference was very successful and helped us meet up with Scout Associations with whom we are exploring new projects; also we established our position on many European proposals and events.

Scouting Ireland Members working Internationally

Kandersteg has proven very popular this year for young members to work as staff at this International Camp Site.

International Events - Roverway

Scouting Ireland will appoint a contingent Leader for this project which will take place in Iceland in 2009.

International Projects Asia /Africa

We have progressed with these projects and Chris Kearns will take on the Malaysia Project and a reconnaissance trip was undertaken by Canice Curtis in conjunction with the National Youth Council to Zambia.

Training Work Book 'Life'

With the help of the Programme Staff in Headquarter's we have prepared a work book for Groups working on International Projects

JOTA

The 50th Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) took place over the weekend of 20th and 21st October.

Five stations were activated by Scouting Ireland. Three of the stations had special event call signs; EI50JOTA operated from Larch Hill and centenary stations EI100S and EI100SI were operated by the 1st Kilkenny (Kilkenny) and 18/19th Cork (Fermoy) Scout Groups. The remaining stations EI1SI and EI5MRC were operated by the 2nd Kerry Sea Scouts (Tralee) and Mount Melleray Scout Centre.





JOTA is an annual event which takes place on the third full weekend of October each year. About 500,000 Scouts and Guides all over the world make contacts with each other by means of amateur radio. It is a real Jamboree during which Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, thus contributing to the world brotherhood of Scouting. The services of amateur radio operators are available throughout the country to assist Groups in setting up a station.

Further information is available at www.scouts.ie/international/jota or can be obtained from jota@scouts.ie.

Sean O Sullivan

International Meeting with other Associations

Scout & Guide de France, The Scout Association UK and BSA, ZHP.

We have set regular meetings with the above associations and have on going discussions regarding events and projects.

NYCI

Brendan Brown is the International representative on the NYCI.

The Scouts of the World Programme

Cian Timmons International Team and Steven Cull, Programme Commissioner (Venture Scouts) are moving ahead with the implementation of this award.

International Figures for 2007

Province	No. of Groups	No. of Youth	No. of Scouters	Others
Dublin	39	799	190	23
South East	22	439	116	17
Southern	12	176	55	7
Western	9	166	57	16
Northern	11	223	51	3
North East	20	438	112	5
Individual	47			

World Jamboree 2007

Contin. Team	Inter. Service team	Participants	Leaders
13	114	276	33

I am very pleased with our progress, we have worked hard on establishing new relations and rekindling old, with other associations. We have a driving ambition to bring Scouting Ireland into every aspect of International Scouting.

Scouting Ireland Ltd

Scouting Ireland Limited became fully operational from Jan 2007; at our meeting in Dundalk we had a briefing on aspects of Company Law for all new members of the National Management Committee who are now also directors of Scouting Ireland.

Web Site

It is my intention to do some major changes on the web site during 2008. I have had discussions with our new Communications Commissioner and I would hope we would see significant changes by the end of 2008.

Communications

The NTPIC is the group that oversees the Management of the Association on a day to day basis, we meet once a month and I would hope that meeting dates will be available on the web. If any group or county would like to make a proposal to the NTPIC contact me and we can try to schedule it into one of our monthly meetings. Over the last year we have met representatives of Groups such as the Heritage Group and Larch Hill Management Team. We have phone conference facilities available so we can accommodate Groups from any part of the Country.

The National Secretary's question time has been running over the past 12 months and has proved popular with members. I would encourage you all to use it if you have an issue, which you would like to have addressed.





Communications Report 2007

Scouting Ireland has come a long way in four years. Our image and how the public perceive what we do has similarly come a long way.

In 2002, some research carried out for one of our former associations suggested that Scouting had a significant credibility gap with teenagers and was considered to be 'not particularly relevant' by a fairly high portion of the adult population.

Following a long, hard slog and meticulous relationship building with the media in Ireland over a sustained period, the results were clear, culminating during 2007 with unprecedented levels of expansive national coverage presenting Scouting to the public as it truly is – a modern, relevant, innovative, forward-thinking movement, supporting and being supported by thousands of young people across the country.

Scouting in Ireland has finally addressed the 'coolness' deficit. We now need to ensure we work hard to keep the public's perception in line with reality. It's particularly important with those under 25 – adolescents and those by whom they are influenced. We can all play a part in this by setting and maintaining high standards in our groups – most PR is surprisingly local.

Scouts.ie continued to be a vital resource for all in Scouting Ireland during 2007 and incorporates new features including an image & logo bank, live links to National Team meetings and improved navigation. Ultimately further work is needed here to streamline the site further and these changes will be made as soon as budget permits.

Internal communication continues to be an area of challenge in Scouting Ireland. We spend more than we need to on postage,

yet fail to reach all those who need to be reached. Our new database will help to improve links with scouters but its worth remembering that the database will only be effective if the data within is correct. Communication is a two way street. That said, we are improving in this area all the time and we just need to continue to work hard and smart.

One of many highpoints for me during 2007 was National Council. The Communications Team set out to deliver the best National Council ever and based on feedback, we seem to have gotten close in Killarney. The same people will run National Council 2008 in Ballinasloe. I've challenged the team to beat the standards set in 2007 and to do so with a 20% saving on budget – they plan to rise to the challenge. We hope to see you there!

This is my final report as Communications Commissioner and a conclusion to my involvement at NMC level for now. I am grateful to Mick Devins, the National Secretary for his support, friendship and tolerance during our time working together and I wish him well for the duration of his term.

I'd like to think some positive things have been achieved during my time as Scouting Ireland's first Communications Commissioner and I look forward to seeing bigger and better things in the years ahead. For my part, I could not have achieved anything without the large team who backed me up every step of the way. To them, I express my sincere thanks – it was a genuine honour to work with each of you and I hope to do so again.

Garrett Flynn

At the end of 2007 Garrett Flynn, who held the position of Communications Commissioner under my predecessor and during the period of the INMC, resigned. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his services to Scouting and would like to wish him every success in his new role as Secretary of the Dublin Scout Province.



National Council

In talking about National Council we can't but thank the Southern Province for organising the best weather of 2007 for our weekend in Killarney.

It has been generally felt that if at all possible National Council should be a two day affair and if possible should be residential. This is something which myself and the National Officers intend to continue in the years to come.

Gone Home

The following are members of our Association were remembered in the formal votes of our NMC in the last 12 months.

Michael Stynes a former member of the 96/99 Dublin Group and a member of the Meitheal in Larch Hill.

John Mullins a Beaver Leader of the 70th Dublin (Porterstown) Scout Group.

Very Rev. Kevin Sullivan, P.P. Annaduff, Co. Leitrim was the Founding Father and Chaplain to a number of Scout Groups in the Ardagh & Clonmacnoise Diocese and later the North Midlands Region-1/3/5 Longford (Town), 4th Longford (Edgeworthstown) & 9th Leitrim (Annaduff). He was Chaplain to both the Diocese and the Region.

Ulrick O'Connor former member of the National Executive Board CBSI and 46/92 Cork Scout Group.

Bob Conlon who was one of the first members of 44th Dublin in the 1930's.

To them and all our members that have 'Gone Home' in the last 12 months, we owe them all a great debt of gratitude for their service to Scouting in this our centenary year.

Thanks

I would to take this opportunity to thank the CEO Eamonn Lynch and his staff for their support and assistance over the last 12 months; they have certainly made my job easier.

Our International Commissioner Ann Foley has made a strong mark on her role and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking her on your behalf for the great work she is doing.

I would also like to thank my fellow National Officers especially Brendan Mc Nicholas who stepped down before National Council last year; for their help and support in carrying out my role.

Finally a word of thanks to you the members and especially to those who were involved in the development of Scouting in our early years, in this our centenary year, they more than most have sowed the seeds of the Association we now have. I hope I have been of assistance to you when you have had issues and I look forward to working with you all in the future.

Michael Devins National Secretary

Attendance of NMC members out of a possible 11, day long NMC meetings

The following is a table of attendance at National Management Committee meetings over the last year.

Attendees		Meetings in term	Attended
Chief Scout	Martin Burbridge	11	11
CC (Adult Resources)	Brendan McNicholas	7	5
CC (Adult Resources)	Michael J. Shinnick	4	4
CC (Youth Programme)	Kiernan Gildea	11	8
National Secretary	Michael Devins	11	11
National Treasurer	Niall Walsh	11	9
Chairperson NRSAP	Rev. Gillian Wharton	9	4
Prov. Commissioner Dublin	Anne Smithers	9	7
Prov. Commissioner Northern	Noel McCartney	11	8
Prov. Commissioner Western	Julie Malone	11	7
Prov. Commissioner Southern	Michael J. Shinnick	7	7
Prov. Commissioner Southern	Pat Roche	4	4
Prov. Commissioner South Eastern	Francis Minogue	11	11
Prov. Commissioner North Eastern	Christy McCann	7	7
Prov. Commissioner North Eastern	Jimmy Cunningham	4	4
International Commissioner	Ann Foley	11	8*
Communications Commissioner	Garrett Flynn	11	10
Ordinary Committee Member	Stephen Carey	11	9
Ordinary Committee Member	Ciara Higgins	4	4
Ordinary Committee Member	Richard Scriven	4	4
Ordinary Committee Member	Pat Murphy	7	5
Ordinary Committee Member	Paul Falvey	7	4
Ordinary Committee Member	John Brennan	4	4
Ordinary Committee Member	Pat O'Connor	4	4
Ordinary Committee Member	Noel O'Connor	4	4

*Unable to attend NMC as attending 2 International meetings as International Commissioner.





Report of the Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme)



*Kiernan Gildea
Chief Commissioner
(Youth Programme)*

Is mór an taoibhneas dhom, a leagann amach thíos, an tuarascáil bliantúil don rannóg Príomh Cóimisionéir (Clár na nÓg) don bliain 2007.

It is a pleasure for me to set out hereunder the Annual Report for the Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme) for the year 2007.

National Youth Programme Committee (NYPC)

The NYPC met formally on five occasions during the year. However, the Committee members also met on a number of other occasions during Programme Development weekends. The highlight of the year was the first programme Scouters' Conference in Croke Park in November. Held in conjunction with the annual Commissioners' / CPC / CTC Conference, approx. 400 Scouters and youth members participated in vigorous debate and workshops on the various aspects of the new youth programme.

A special word of thanks to Dominic Byrne, Mary Nugent, Stevie Oaks, Diane Dignam, Peter Sheehan, Maeliosa de Buitléir and Tony Caffrey for bringing this conference to fruition. Following representations from various members of the Association I proposed a return to the more traditional structure of Programme Commissioners at the June meeting of the National Management Committee.

In June, the National Management Committee appointed the following Programme Commissioners:

Cub Scouts / Macaoimh:

Scouts:

Venture Scouts:

Water Activities & Sea Scouts:

National Events:

Programme Development:

Bridget O'Neill

Morgan O'Sullivan

Steven Cull

Stephen Taylor

Ian Davy

Dominic Byrne

Programme Development Dominic Byrne

**Youth Programme Development
One Programme for all Sections
Centred on the individual young person
Supported by Adult Scouters**

Encouraging Young People to achieve their full potential

The past year has been a busy and challenging one for Programme Development. The mammoth task of developing and refining the proposed Youth Programme and Programme materials continued. The Pilot Scheme was extended and the Pilot Groups continue to provide invaluable input to the development of the Programme. There was also extensive engagement with the membership of Scouting Ireland throughout 2007.

Meetings & Events

The Programme Development Team met most Wednesday evenings over the past year. The Team also held eight working weekends in 2007 to work with the extended team of volunteers and the Pilot Groups. Presentations were given at six different meetings and conferences around the country. In May, workshops were held in each of the provinces to inform on the latest developments and gather feedback. At National Council in June a comprehensive Gallery was mounted which outlined the various elements of the proposed Programme. In addition, detailed explanation was provided and feedback received at an interactive session on the Saturday morning.

A large portion of the Scouters Conference in November was dedicated to Programme Development. A huge amount of work went into preparing an extensive gallery to illustrate the





Programme. Members of the Programme Development Team, Pilot Groups, other volunteers and even family members were drafted in to help make this a great success. In the afternoon a number of workshops and panel discussions were held to explore various aspects of the proposed Programme and to gather more feedback. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of the numerous people who worked so hard to make the Programme Development aspect of the Conference such a success.

Over the course of the year I attended five meetings of the National Management Committee (NMC) to keep them up to date on the development of the Programme. In June a Change Management sub-committee of the NMC was established to work on various issues relating to implementation of the proposed Programme. In November the NMC established an Age Range sub-committee to prepare a proposal on Age Ranges.

Pilot Scheme

A number of meetings were held with Pilot Groups during the year. In addition, the groups received direct support from the Programme Support staff. The first year of the Pilot Scheme concluded in September. The outcomes from this first year were captured in a report which was presented to the NMC. Overall satisfaction with the programme was high. The main concerns centred on the programme materials. These concerns were taken on board and the materials had all been updated by the end of the year. There was a general feeling amongst Pilot Groups that they required more time to fully pilot the programme materials and the NMC agreed to an extension of the Pilot Scheme. Further refinements to the material may be required as a result of this extended piloting.

Thanks to all of the groups who have participated in the Pilot Scheme –

- 15th Dublin/9th Port (Malahide)**
- 66th Dublin (Clontarf)**
- 171st Dublin (Rivervalley)**
- 3rd Meath (Ballivor)**
- 9th Meath (Ratoath)**
- 6th Dublin (Lesson Park)**
- 29th Dublin (Blackrock)**
- 54th/88th Dublin (Dun Laoghaire)**
- 86th Dublin (Mount Merrion)**
- 31st Waterford (Faithlegg)**
- 1st Wicklow (Greystones)**
- 2nd Cork (Cathedral)**
- 2nd/7th Cork (St.Finbarrs)**

- 4th Cork (Peters & Pauls)**
- 6th/47th Cork (Douglas)**
- 80th Cork (Little Island)**
- 46th Limerick (Ballybricken)**
- 1st Mayo (Castlebar)**
- 2nd Mayo (Westport)**
- 20th Mayo (Snugboro)**
- 19th Donegal (Lifford/Clonleigh)**

Without their help it would not have been possible for us to have achieved all that we have with the proposed Programme.

Programme Content

Adventure Skills Handbooks and Scouters Notes were completed and circulated to Pilot Groups in February. The rewritten Tracker and Explorer Personal Challenge Handbooks were completed and circulated in March.

In September, the third edition of the Tracker and Explorer Handbooks were produced. These incorporated changes and additions to the Personal Challenges. They also included a story explaining the working of the Programme in age appropriate language and graphics. A Discovery Handbook was produced in the same format following extensive input from Discovery Scouts and other Scouts of Discovery Scout age. A special thanks to all those involved - further graphical work will be required to fully realise their vision. An initial Rover Handbook was also produced. A Scouters Handbook was compiled outlining how the Programme works from the Scouters perspective.

At year end, corrected versions of the Adventure Skills were published. Work was also nearing completion on a revised version of the Rover Handbook in the same format as the other Youth Handbooks. Similar to the approach with the Discovery Scout handbook, this Handbook has been designed with extensive input from Rover Scouts and other Scouts of Rover Scout age. Again, a special thanks to all those who contributed.

In May, the Programme2008 website which had been restricted to the Pilot Groups was made generally available. This website contains all of the Programme material, background material, presentations, etc. in relation to the proposed Programme. As material is revised it is published here first. The website address is –

<http://www.programme2008.ie>

Remaining Work

Over the coming months the Pilot Groups will continue to work





with the revised materials. Their feedback will help to improve the final versions of the handbooks.

In January and February the Pilot Groups will provide their feedback on their experience of operating the Programme. This will feed into the final report on the Pilot Scheme which will be completed in March.

Work is on-going with the NMC on Age Ranges and Change Management.

The National Training Team are working on transition Training and revisions to Woodbadge training.

Finally

Thanks again to all of the groups who are participating in the Pilot Scheme – it is a very big and brave undertaking for any group to try out a new and untested programme in this way and we are in their debt.

Thanks to Collie Kavanagh, Karol Quinn, Canice Curtis and Gillian Keogh, the Programme Support staff in Head Office for their ongoing work.

Thanks to all the people who volunteer their time to work on developing the Programme. In particular, my thanks to the regular Wednesday night gang who keep the show on the road – Mary Nugent, Diane Dignam, Stevie Oakes, Peter Sheehan, Maeliosa De Buitlear, Tony Caffrey, Brian Doyle, Paul Lynch, Stephanie McCann, Tony Hughes, Niamh McLain, and Emma McMullin. They have kept it all going during the past year when my involvement was curtailed following the birth of my daughter Eimear.

A special thanks to my wife Rita for continuing to support me in this role during such an important year in the life of our family. The year ahead promises to be an exciting one when we see the fruition of the past four years work. The proposed Programme now incorporates the valuable feedback from the Pilot Groups and the input from the various meetings and conferences over the past year. I am confident that Scouting Ireland will be proud to adopt the Youth Programme that will be presented to National Council in June 2008.

National Events – Ian Davy

National Events in 2007 saw approximately 8,850 youth members participate in over 34 Events.

Events open to all Sections:	2,500 on 6 events
Beaver Scouts	2,150 on 5 events
Cub Scouts / Macaoimh	2,540 on 7 events
Scouts	1,450 on 11 events
Venture Scouts	210 on 5 events

These events were staffed and made possible by approximately 850 Adult Scouters, Venture Scouts and External Instructors / Service Providers.

In the 2006 Annual Report I was able to report that National Events raised €16,000 for the National Children's Hospital, Bóthar and The Variety Club of Ireland collectively. Disappointingly although the Giant Sleepover was held for the National Children's Hospital and the Beaver National Animal Awareness Days incorporated projects for Bóthar, only €1,300 was raised in 2007. Nonetheless, thank you to the participants who helped to raise the much-needed funds for the above causes.



Scouts – Morgan O’Sullivan

2007 saw the first ever Scouting Ireland National Venture Scout Moot being held – VMOOT. This event aims to bring young people together to explore the steps necessary in today’s society to have meaningful engagement in our communities, so as to better celebrate the Centenary of Scouting by fostering Real Active Citizenship.

Projects undertaken by the participating Venture Scouts included; *“Fair Trade”, “Graffiti”, “See if Society Excludes more than it Includes”, “Determine if Drug use should it be legal? What effects does it have in your community?”, “Explore A Deadly Relationship: Eating Disorders, Self Mutilation and Unexpressed Emotions”, “Demonstrate Eco - Friendly Camping” & “Explore the causes and effects of alcohol / drug / substance abuse among young people in Ireland today”*. This event will feature again in 2008.

The National Raft Race – Scouts & The National Raft Race – Venture Scouts were both held for the first time in Lough Dan, June 2007. Although participation levels were low, these events were a great success and will be featured again in 2008

Beaver Scouts – Vacant

Despite two mailings to every Group and County in the Association no person was nominated for the position of Programme Commissioner for Beaver Scouts. Notwithstanding the absence of a Programme Commissioner however, the NYPC always took Beaver Scouts into account in its deliberations. Over 2000 Beaver Scouts took part in national events and the increase in numbers over 2006 is welcome.

Cub Scouts/Macaoimh – Bridget O’Neill

I took up position as Programme Commissioner for Cubs / Macaoimh in June 2007. The first few months have been a getting to know the job, and putting a team together. Following discussions with Karol Quinn, he is putting together resources for Scouters, which are already somewhere in the system. They will be updated and made available to all Scouters to assist in developing skills and making material readily available to assist in running the Cub Section for the benefit of the young people we work with.

I am looking forward to the challenge of the next 3 years, particularly as we develop the programme for Cubs / Macaoimh.

The main focus of the Scout Team for 2007 was an assessment of the needs of the Scout Section nationally. This process included a series of consultations with various groups of Scouters and Scouts which resulted in a list of priorities being drawn up. This list then formed the basis of the work of the Team since the Summer. A number of specific projects were undertaken, each of which aimed to provide much needed support for Scout Patrols and Troops. These include:

- **Scout Leadership Training Packs**
- **A ‘How To’ series of fact sheets focused on Scouting Skills**
- **Patrol meetings guide**
- **Mountaineering programme manual**
- **Camping manual**
- **‘Scouts’ Own’ resources**
- **Programme planning information sheets**

These materials to be rolled out online, on scouts.ie, and in hardcopy format, in early 2008.

The 2007 National Youth Forum (Scouts) was deferred to April 2008. This was to allow for the development of resources to assist Scout Counties in running Youth Fora and to facilitate the development of the National Forum into a more effective and important body within Scouting Ireland.

As well as the ongoing projects, the Scout Team along with the National Youth Reps (Scouts) developed a three year strategy in coordination with other National Programme Advisory Teams and the National Youth Programme Committee.





Venture Scouts – Steven Cull

Since July the www.scouts.ie/ventures section of the website has been revamped to include programme resource material to support groups and counties prioritising the following areas :

- How to start new Venture Units from scratch
- The planning of programme and the project method
- Diversifying the style of programme offered
- Increasing youth participation in decision making at Group and County levels through effective youth initiated and youth-run fora

The use of the internet is particularly effective at the Venture Scout age range which is why I have also initiated a very brief online newsletter which is released during the first week of each month featuring relevant news from Ireland and abroad, programme ideas, updates on the resources being produced for the Section and photographs from events, both local and national. It will also be posted on <http://www.scouts.ie/ventures/venture-news/> and is available from me at scull@scouts.ie.

I have also visited individual Counties and Groups who have asked for assistance in providing the necessary support to maintain and expand the Venture Units operating within their area.

Water Activities & Sea Scouts – Stephen Taylor

I would like to start by acknowledging and thanking Brian O Daly for his work in guiding the Sea Scout and Water activities brief over the transition into Scouting Ireland and up to June 2007. Brian has been a long time Sea Scout Leader and supporter of all things nautical and he gave a huge amount of time and commitment to the Youth Programme teams during his tenure.

There were numerous activities run around the country in support of Sea Scouts and water activities within the Provinces, one of the highlights being *Splashdown 2007*, run on 5th to 7th May – At the Share Centre, Co. Fermanagh. Over 330 Scouts, Scouters and Instructors from 20 Troops were in attendance of which 30% were non Sea Scout troops. The programme offered rowing, dinghy sailing, keelboat sailing, windsurfer sailing, kayaking, Canadian canoeing, banana boating, coracle building, raft building, swimming, climbing wall, archery and a disco. The Camp Chief Dr. Eoghan Lavelle arrived at the camp opening ceremony on a currach which was built at the Boating Exhibition 2007. The camp was a huge success and introduced a number of new groups to Water activities.





Other ACTIVITIES throughout 2007 included:
 From 1 Oct – Offshore Navigation Course (ISA) every Monday night throughout the Winter
 Throughout the year additional courses have been run covering Power Boating , Sailing and Rowing at our Training locations at Dunlaoghaire, Malahide and Killaloe.
 We also ran ICC Practical assessments throughout the year from Dunlaoghaire.

We have been successful in obtaining a number of places each year aboard the various Tall Ships (Asgard, Jeannie Johnston. Ocean Youth Trust) for Scouts and Scouters. We hope to increase the places available and hope to have more Scouts participate in the next Tall Ships events.

In Oct , 2007, the Odysseus Group met in Larch Hill. This group meets regularly in Europe to discuss common maritime related matters for Sea Scouts and provide the planning team for Eurosea 2008. Planning is under way for “Eurosea 9” - 9th European Sea Scout Leaders Seminar to be held in Ireland during May 2008.

We have a small team pulling together any work needed for Water Activities or Sea Scout elements of the new programme and looking at the Framework options. We have also started working with the training team with respect to Adult Leader training and are in the process of putting together a team to drive this area.

Meanwhile, we look forward to the Centenary year of Irish Scouting and plan to ensure the foundations are set in place for the next 100 years.

Camping – Damien O’Sullivan, Campsites & Facilities Manager

During the year 2007 the National Management Committee appointed, Damien O’Sullivan, to the position of Support Officer for Scouting Ireland campsites and facilities. This is a new role and the purpose is to advise on and support the development of the Scouting Ireland campsites and Facilities. Damien was replaced as manager of Larch Hill by James Usher who is now responsible for the day to day management of the national campsite.

Scouting Ireland has 30 campsites spread throughout Ireland. Four of these, Larch Hill Scout Centre, Killaloe Water Activity Centre, Mount Mellary Scout Centre and Lough Dan Scout Centre are directly owned by the National Association, and are managed by a team of volunteers under the direction of



a volunteer Camp Chief who is appointed by the National Management Team.

The remainder of the campsites/centres, 26 in total, are owned either by individual Scout Counties or Scout Groups, and managed by volunteers appointed by the Scout County or Group.

In 2007 two new campsites / centres opened, Srahan Scout Centre, in Co.Laois, which is managed by the 6th Tipperary (Roscrea) Scout Group, and the Carrickmacross Campsite in Co.Monaghan which is being managed by the 3rd Monaghan Scout Group (Carrickmacross).

All other campsites / centres continued to carry out improvements the most significant being at Larch Hill where a new 26 bed Chalet and also a new shower block have been constructed. Glenshalane Campsite in Waterford, constructed a new timber chalet to their campsite. Ballyhornan Scout Centre, County Down also completed a major renovation of



their center and this facility was re-dedicated in 2007. 2nd Offaly (Clara)Scout Group commenced the development of a camping area beside their den. While in 2007 the team in Fota Island were working hard developing activities for groups visiting the centre.

All in all it has been a good year and further developments are planned at all campsites / centres in 2008. I would like to thank all the volunteer members who dedicate so much time to our campsites/centres, whilst also continuing in their other scouting roles, and who are providing an excellent service to the association. I would encourage all our Scout Groups wherever possible to avail of our scout campsites/centres. The campsites / centres depend on income generated at the campsites to continue to maintain and improve these valuable scouting venues.

and finally.....

CCYP - Other commitments

As well as commitments arising from involvement in the National Youth Programme Committee, I attended meetings of, and contributed to the work of, the following Committees during the year:

- National Team for Policy Implementation & Coordination (NTPIC)
- Child Protection Management Team (CPMT)
- Awards Committee
- Scout Foundation (Northern Ireland)

World Jamboree Contingent Committee
National Museum Exhibition Project

I would like to thank the members of the National Management Committee for their friendship and support during the year. I would like also to thank the members of the National Youth Programme Committee especially the Programme Commissioners for their good work. I would like to particularly thank Pauline Lucas, Pat McCartin, John Lawlor Jnr and Paul Falvey for their excellent work during their term of office as Programme Commissioners. Finally a word of thanks to Collie, Canice, Karol, Gillian, Eamonn and all the staff at National Office for their support and assistance.

'In a changing society, as soon as we stop changing, we start to go backwards.'

Kiernan Gildea
Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme)





Report of the Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources)



*Michael John Shinnick
Chief Commissioner
(Adult Resources)*

First and foremost may I thank most sincerely the work of Brendan McNicholas from 2004 to 2007 in his capacity as Chief Commissioner Adult Resources. The amount of work initiated by Brendan and his team was considerable and most beneficial to the adults in Scouting Ireland.

In reviewing the year past may I update you on events and activities initiated and carried out under my term to year end 2007.

Scouters Conference and Centenary Ball at Croke Park

On the day, this large event was jointly hosted by both Chief Commissioners but the hard work in organising the event fell to National Adult Resources Committee. The organising group consisted of Jimmy Holmes, Brendan Mc Nicholas, Joe Marken, Sean Farrell and I. A total of over 1000 attended both events. At the conference we had 4 streams of activity run simultaneously but in the main was dedicated to the Programme Development Team to allow a detailed presentation of the proposed new programme. These streams were:

1. Programme
2. Training
3. SQS
4. Commissioners

A number of positive outcomes were identified and allocated to a number of teams for review and consideration. There was a great sense of satisfaction expressed and I believe that adults in Scouting had a firsthand opportunity to understand and question the developments around the new programme. In opening the conference I referred to the cogs that drive

Scouting Ireland. In the main the cog of experience will drive us forward to new levels which are what Adult Support is about.

Expositions

A number of invited groups and non scouting organisations erected colourful and informative stands in the conference area which added hugely to the success of the conference and the venue was indeed excellent.

Centenary Ball

What can I say that has not been said already about the Ball? We had quality and quantity, great musicians, an amazing amount of spots and a never ending stream of great fun friendship and Freedom.

The evening started with a reception at 7pm and we were honoured to have as our guest of honour at the reception, An Taoiseach Mr. Bertie Ahern who addressed the gathering and thanked all present for their commitment and dedication to the youth of the 32 counties. He was introduced to the National Officers where he was presented with the centenary coin which was launched later at the dinner.

I would like to thank most sincerely our sponsors, the musicians and the caterers and staff of Croke Park for what was a truly wonderful occasion. In conclusion a special thank to the spouses and partners of the Adults of Scouting for their sparkle and contribution to the night.

Code of Good Practice

This is a vital document to the well being of all our members and one which every adult member must be familiar with. I have during the year used various occasions to under pin this point and in September we issued a further 1000 copies of the Code. This document is reviewed annually however during 2007 a subgroup of the National Youth Work Advisory





Committee (NYWAC) commenced a review of the “Code of Good Practice: Child Protection Guidelines for the Youth Work Sector”. This will be completed in early 2008 and we await the ensuing recommendations before completing a review of our own document, thus enabling us to incorporate any amendments or changes. Phil Stapleton (Child Protection Officer) is a member of the departments review group.

Support for Quality Scouting

This system of assessment seems to be a year on year topic of debate and having operated all levels of S.Q.S. I have asked a technical group to look at it with a view to making it more stream lined and in a position to offer real time responsive support to Groups in need. With the concept of working “smarter rather than harder” to ensure we cut out duplication where applicable. From 2008 onwards we are asking that it be completed at the same time as the Census with the utilisation of the on line data base Census returns. With the imminent employment of a Group Support Facilitator in each Province we should be in a position to support in real time. This system of completing S.Q.S. should to my mind take no more than two years to bed down with all parties buying into it.

Communication

Provincial directory

Effective communication within our organisation is essential and during the year we developed a Provincial Directory to facilitate easy communication between the Province Management Committee (PMC) of each Province.

Provincial visits

During the year I set about visiting each province and meeting with the Provincial Commissioner and the PMC’s. To date I have visited four provinces and was very impressed with commitment. The remaining two provinces are scheduled for 2008. In addition I met with the 6 Provincial Commissioners as a group and we collectively found the exercise both beneficial

and productive. One of the most beneficial elements was the degree of openness and exchange of information allowing each province to learn from the other. I was very happy to be invited to a number of provincial, county and group events during the year and I thank those involved for their generosity.

Woodbadge Reunion

In September 07 I set up a group to plan and run a Scouters Woodbadge Reunion in Larch Hill to be held in September 2008. For most of the time when we meet as Scouters we do so normally to conduct business. This event is exclusively about renewing friendships and having fun and is open to all Scouters. I strongly encourage your attendance as the event where all Woodbadge holders will be invested into the 1st Larch Hill Group.

Awards.

Scouting Ireland recognises the contribution of many individuals and organisations within the Award Scheme. It is a very practical and positive way to say thank you and I will always encourage you to use the award scheme for this purpose. During the year the National Adult Awards Committee awarded a total of 387 awards.

Resources

As a result of my visits around the country I found there was a need to put together some form of reference book for Group, County and Provincial level, whereby we each understood policy and general information effecting the management of the Association. I have asked a number of Scouters and professionals for additional input on the contents and we will formally launch the production by April 2008.



Training

John Brennan was appointed to the position of Training Commissioner by the NMC in November 2006 and reappointed in that position in June 2007. The following is an overview of the activities around the training function for the year 2007.

Courses Provided

Looking back on the year I must express my thanks to The Training Commissioner, the Provincial Commissioners, the Provincial Training Coordinators and the County Training Coordinators for their interest and commitment to training. It goes without saying that I also am deeply grateful to the trainers who traverse the provinces and the country presenting training courses. This commitment can clearly be seen when we look at the numbers attending Training in the year under review. Well over 2200 participants attended a total of 12 different courses as follows: and a total of 62 Wood Badges were awarded in 2007.

- 1 Scouting Fundamentals
- 2 Beaver Essentials
- 3 Cub Essentials
- 4 Scout Essentials
- 5 Venture Essentials
- 6 Scouting Leadership
- 7 Group Leader
- 8 Skills
- 9 Child Protection
- 10 Beaver Slumber nights
- 11 Cub Pack Holidays
- 12 Scout Troop camping

Child Protection

The feedback from the Scouting Fundamentals was the catalyst for change on this module. Originally scheduled for 90 minutes the total feedback was for a longer more detailed course. Phil Stapleton and John Brennan took steps to review our options and in 2007 Scouting Ireland adopted a new 4 hour Child Protection Awareness Programme. This programme was adapted from a module developed under the umbrella of the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYC I) for the youth work sector. To date a total of 46 trainers have been trained by Gearoid O'Maoilmhichil, the National Child Protection Coordinator with NYC I, to deliver the new module to members of Scouting Ireland. The module was piloted with some 60 Scouters and amended to suit the feedback. Training invested

in providing up to 100 Trainers Manuals together with Group Work Exercise materials and handouts for the module. It was rolled out in September 2007 with the intention of reviewing its effectiveness in January 08. During the year there were a total of 35 Child Protection Courses, including both Fundamentals and the new 4 hour programme, delivered across 5 of the Provinces.

Trainers Conference

The Training Team hosted the first Trainers conference in Scouting Ireland at the National College of Ireland on February 18th 2007 and 90 trainers attended the conference and it focused on the topic of Change and a number of trainers made excellent and thought provoking presentations around the topic.

Skills Training

An Action group from the South-east was set up in 2007 to develop presentation skills training for instructors and this was piloted both in the Dublin Scout Province and in the Southeast Province. A number of successful Provincial Skills courses were held in the Northern (Brian Hughes) and Western Province (Julie Malone) and the template used will be offered to other provinces. A mountain Leadership Course was developed in the Southern Province and is now run from the Mount Melleray Centre.

E-Learning

A small group including volunteer and professionals are looking at e-learning as a means of training and will provide some feedback in early 2008.

Training Quality and Standards

The first move on developing a Quality and Standards group was made by John Brennan in the latter part of 07 and it is expected that this group will be fully functional by April 2008. Its function will be to ensure national standards and quality training.





Recognition of Woodbadge Training

A sub group of the Training team headed by John Brennan have been working on having the Woodbadge accredited to FETAC level 5 and steady progress has been recorded here. The situation at year end was that one submission was awaiting approval and it is anticipated that the approval will come in June 2008. Additionally work has started in having SI approved by FETAC as a recognised provider of FETAC awards which will indeed be a significant step forward in Adult Support.

Training of Trainers

A basic and advanced Trainers course was conducted over September /Dec 2007 and it produced a total of 10 graduates. The Training Team have approved a mentoring programme (developed in the North) which each approved graduate will operate under for a 12 month period before going it alone in training.

Suicide Prevention through Education



A lot of good work was completed in 2007 on this subject and a meeting was held with the HSE. It is anticipated that the work of the training group will be published in house mid 2008.

Special needs Training

The first steps in understanding and delivering special needs training took place at a side conference in Croak Park and a commitment to have some positive feedback from training was given for March /April 2008

Thanks

Finally

I would like to sincerely thank:

- 1 My fellow National Officers who helped me to hit the ground running
- 2 The members of the NMC.
- 3 The members of the NARC Team for their skills and dedication.
- 4 The Provincial Commissioners and Provincial Training coordinators for their support for training;
- 5 The County Training Coordinators and the County Commissioners.
- 6 The Trainers of Scouting Ireland.
- 7 Those who made me feel welcome at various functions and who helped me
- 8 John Brennan Training Commissioner.
- 9 SQS Coordinating Committee
- 10 The Awards Committee
- 11 Sean Farrell , Phil Stapleton and all at Head Office

Michael John Shinnick
Chief Commissioner Adult Resources.



Report of the National Treasurer



Niall Walsh
National Treasurer

Scouting Ireland is currently in a very financially sound position, with borrowings significantly lower than when the association was established. Current membership fees are being maintained and forecasts predict that the membership fees will remain level in 2008 – after adjusting for the change to a September year end. 2007 was another year in which allocated budgets were not fully spent by some areas – but the level of the under spend has decreased when compared to 2006. Forecasts, given inflation and the recruitment of new staff (Group Support Facilitators) are that this under spend will not occur again in 2008. As an association we continue to live within our means but are probably not maximising the benefits for our youth members by not spending the allocated budgets. This continues to be, of course, a better position to be in than one where we are spending too much as we do not have to reduce the services we provide for our members or to lay off staff.

Note: all monetary amounts are rounded to thousands.

Income & Expenditure

We had prepared a break-even budget for 2007, forecasting that Scouting Ireland would not have a surplus but this was not the outcome. We unfortunately had a surplus of €207,000. The key contributors were the increase in income from government grants of €88,000 and our membership fees

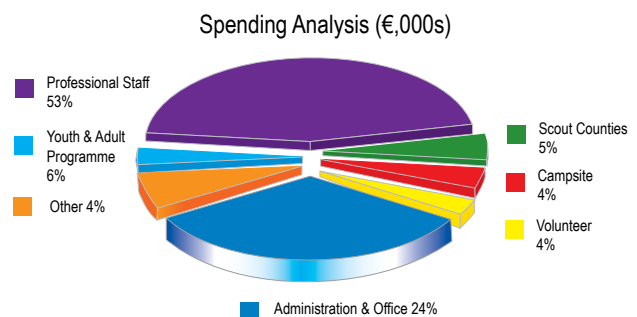
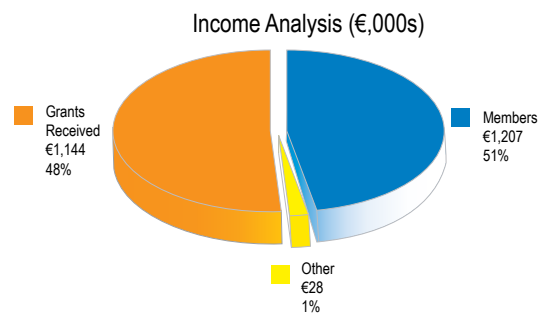


growing by €14,000. Our expenditure across a number of headings was lower than budgeted. We should also note that the income does not reflect a total of €341,000 of grants from the Department of Education Youth Affairs Section which were received at the end of 2007 towards specific spending which will occur in 2008 – this money has been treated as Deferred Grant income.

The plan for 2008 is to break even – with increased spending on staffing which commenced in late 2007. We will need to take care when expanding the employee costs that we do not cause a situation where our spending exceeds our income in the longer term as this is not in the interest of Scouting Ireland.

Spending

Each year I am asked for a breakdown of the membership fee and an indication of where it is spent. As the membership fee is not allocated to specific costs, this is not possible. In other words it is not possible to say that x euro of the membership fee goes on insurance or on salaries, etc. What is possible is a breakdown of where all of the income of Scouting Ireland is spent and an analysis of that total income was spent on. The following charts and tables provides the available information.





Cash Flow

Our cash flow was strong during the year with significant repayments of loans continued during 2007

Forecast for 2008

Again in 2008 we have budgeted for a breakeven position. I hope we will achieve this. This is based upon a plan that the 2008 Jamboree will operate on a break basis and will not impact the Associations finances. We are also very fortunate to have received a grant from the Department, in addition to the grants normally received, for spending in 2008 amounting to €341,000. While we are budgeting for a break-even income and expenditure situation I expect to receive further repayments of amounts due from Castle Saunderson Limited within 2008.

Other Information

A number of other items which I wish to bring to your attention are:

Membership fees have been set at the same level as 2007 for the scouting years 2008 and 2009.

The Association now operates as a limited company – therefore the financial statements have been prepared in an different format to comply with the legal requirements of a company.

The audited Financial Statements prepared for the Company with no comparative figures.

Pro-forma abbreviated financial statements showing comparative amounts for 2007 and 2006.

Financial Statements of the Three/Four trust companies operated by Scouting Ireland.

The Financial Statements of Scouting Ireland Limited do not include the income or expenditure of the Retail Operation – which operates the shops in Dublin and Cork.

The Scout Foundation NI Limited, a company, which operates in Northern Ireland – receives grants from the UK authorities and spends this money with in Northern Ireland.

I would also like to thank the staff in Larch Hill, especially Fionan Lawlor and Barbara Hughes in the finance function, who do an excellent job in assisting the volunteers and contribute greatly to Scouting Ireland.

Niall Walsh
National Treasurer



National Spiritual and Religious Advisory Panel



*Rev. Gillian Wharton
Chairperson National Spiritual
Religious Advisory Panel.*

Members of Panel:

Church of Ireland representative:

Rev. Gillian Wharton – Chairperson

Methodist Representative:

Rev. Vanessa Wyse Jackson – Adult Resources

Presbyterian Representative:

Rev. Mary Hunter – Secretary

Society of Friends Representative:

Pat Ó Súilleabháin – Programme

Other attendees at NSRAP meetings:

Gerry Glynn, Brian Meyer, Karol Quinn (Staff) and occasionally Collie Kavanagh (Staff), and the Chief Scout when there is an issue that he specifically wishes to discuss with NSRAP.

Membership of Panel: It is very regrettable that the Panel has been without an official representative from the Roman Catholic Church since June 2006. The Chief Scout, along with the Panel, and the members of the National Team and the National Management Committee have been endeavouring to have this situation rectified and we are now hopeful that an appointment will be rubber-stamped by the Roman Catholic Conference of Bishops, in the very near future.

The Panel has endeavoured again, over the past year, to make contact with members of the Islamic Community, the Jewish Community and the Baptist Church, in order to have representative from these religions and denomination. However, despite numerous letters and emails sent, the Chairperson has not received a reply.

Role and Function of NSRAP:

1. Recently, the Panel has been looking at how it has operated and what expectations that have been placed upon the Panel.
 - a. At times, the Panel has been seen, and indeed has portrayed itself as a sort of 'vigilante' group for Scouting Ireland, reminding the organisation to include the spiritual aspect and to make provision to endeavour to enable members to fulfil their religious obligations; and that has been the expectation of some within Scouting Ireland.
 - b. There has been an expectation that the members of the Panel will be available to conduct religious services whenever they arise within scouting.
 - c. There is the expectation that the Panel will provide material and resources for anything spiritual and/or religious happening in Scouting.

This led the Panel to explore what its role and function is, and how it can best serve Scouting Ireland. Given the nature the work that the members of the Panel do, they are not available to fulfil some of the expectations above, and the Panel do not see that as their role.

The Panel see their role as being that contained in the Scouting Ireland Spiritual and Religious Policy document which was issued in January 2006. In that document, it stated:

The National Spiritual and Religious Advisory Panel comprises of representatives of the various world religions¹ and denominations² whose adherents are members of Scouting Ireland.

¹ The term Religion refers to the six major world religions; Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism

² The term denominations refers to a branch or tradition within a religion e.g.. Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, Progressive Jew, Shia Muslim, Society of Friends, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist etc.



Its role is to support, encourage and advise Scouting Ireland, its Scout Provinces, Scout Counties and Scout Groups in doing their duty to God or in furthering their understanding and acceptance of a spiritual reality.

2. The questions we now are asking of ourselves as members of the Panel are:
 - a. Is the Panel there to support in the spiritual development of the scout as an individual and Scouting Ireland as a whole, or is it there to encourage individual scouts to participate within their respective denominations or faiths? Or is it both?
 - b. Is the Panel there just to advise on spiritual matters to ensure that what should be happening as a part of scouting happens in a more inclusive and broader way, bearing in mind our multi-faith and multi-denominational ethos?
 - c. Is the Panel there to advise that the things that happened within our founding organisations go ahead now in a more inclusive and broader way, bearing in mind our multi-faith and multi-denominational ethos?
 - d. Is the primary concern of the Panel, the provision of specific denominational and/or religious worship at every event?
 - e. Or is the Panel's primary concern that Scouting Ireland has, a holistic, broad, inclusive, enriching, spiritual dimension which is integrated in every aspect of scouting?
3. How does the Panel best fulfil its role?
 - a. Spirituality as an integral part of scouting is the responsibility of all members of Scouting Ireland, not just the 'holy huddle'!
 - b. It is vital that spirituality is seen as something that every leader includes and promotes as part of scouting



- and not something that 'gets done' by a 'holy person' in a compartmentalised box.
- c. To be effective, the Panel needs to operate as an integral part of Scouting Ireland and not as an insular group on its own and to do that its members need to be part of the committees/groups where the development of Scouting is happening, i.e. Adult Resources and Programme.

Things Achieved in the Last Year:

Prayer Bookmark: The Panel compiled prayers to be used by each section as well as a prayer for scouting, a prayer for leaders and a prayer for peace. These were printed on a small sheet in the shape of a bookmark and sent to each Group.

Funeral Guidelines:

The Panel has issued guidelines for Groups attending/participating in the funeral of one of its members or the relative of one of its members.

Liturgy:

The Panel has been put together an act of worship which can be used during the Centenary year. It may be incorporated into a denominational mass or service; parts of it may be used at a function to celebrate the Centenary, or at weekly meetings.

Resources and Ideas:

The Panel has also been researching and creating ideas and resources for Scouts' Owns, as well as other activities to celebrate the Centenary.

Rev. Gillian Wharton
 Chairperson National Spiritual Religious
 Advisory Panel.

North Eastern Province



Jimmy Cunningham
Provincial Commissioner

When taking up a term of office half way through a calendar year, I wondered if that meant that I only had to submit a half year report, but that was never going to be the case! Reporting on the 2007 Scouting year was an easy task when all you have to do is meet any Scout from the North Eastern Province and you get an amazing feel for what we do and that we do it well!

No report for 2007 would be complete without mentioning my predecessor, Christy McCann. It's a daunting task for anyone to follow in Christy's footsteps having taken the Province from its inception to where it is today. The Provinces' heartfelt thanks go to Christy for all his work during the last four years.

The backbone of the Province's work is in Training. The two principal Training Teams always have courses with high demand, hard work, great dedication to Scouting and lots of fun. The Province's panel of trainers, who are brilliantly led by Fiona McCann, put in a huge effort to ensure that quality Scouting through effective training makes its way into the weekly meetings of every Beaver Colony, Cub Pack, Scout & Sea Scout Troop and Venture Unit throughout the Province. The Province's Trainers have been to the forefront in embracing new challenges such as the new Child Protection Training Scheme and are not afraid to try and break the mould by trying new things.

The breakdown of course participants during 2007 within the Provinces was as follows:

Scouting Fundamentals	134	Child Protection	82
Beaver Essentials	29	Beaver Slumbernight	6
Cub Essentials	45	Cub Pack Holidays	48
Scout Essentials	45	Scout Camping	27
Venture Essentials	17	Scout Leadership	32



The delivery of training is ever evolving with the Scout Counties taking on the role of the delivery of Skill's courses and work is underway on areas such as Patrol / Watch Leader Training and additional skills. Our Trainers have a heavy workload, but are up to the challenge as they have proven before and especially in 2007.

One area that of course brings immediate demand for training is the establishment of New Groups. During 2007 a new Beaver Colony and Cub Pack opened in 8th Louth (Slieve Foy) and new Groups were opened in 5th Meath (Kells), 17th Meath (Longwood) and 18th Meath (Cois Farraige). On behalf of the Province I welcome them all to our family in Scouting and look forward to meeting you along the Scouting Trail.





Support for Scouting and the initiative for New Groups comes from within the Scout Counties. The North Eastern Province has seven Scout Counties and are all led by very dedicated County Commissioners who take the role by the scruff of the neck and deliver needed support to the Groups that make up their Counties. I would like to thank Marie Beegan (Átha Cliath 15), Seamus O'Reilly (Cavan Monaghan), Robert Kennedy (Fingal), Greg Boyd (Gleann na Boinne), Brendan Martin (Lakelands), Yvonne Lawrence (Louth) and James O'Toole (Réachra) who all do fantastic jobs and make it a pleasure to meet at Provincial Management Support Team Meetings. During 2007 we had a change of guard in some of the Counties and I would also like to acknowledge and thank Andy McGill (Átha Cliath 15), Eoin O'Mathuna (Cavan Monaghan), Steve Horgan (Fingal) and Willie O'Connor (Lakelands) who all stepped down during the year. Thank you all for your work over the last number of years.

Programme throughout the Province is very wide and varied and wherever you go in the North Eastern Province you are always sure to meet an interesting group of Scouts who are enjoying what they do and make the most of taking part. This was seen in the make-up of the Troops who had participating Scouts from this Province at the World Scout Jamboree.



Over 100 people from the Province were lucky enough to have been part of the World Jamboree in Avoca, Brosna and Laune Troops along with members of the IST and Contingent Team. Jamboree Fever has since gripped the Province since the World Scout Jamboree and the focus for this coming year is very much towards Jamboree 2008. Whilst all of this is going on, one eye is still being kept towards the day to day Programme in the Province and we have been very lucky to have very high calibre Scouters supporting what we





do. Thanks must go to Sinead Bermingham for all her work as the Provincial Programme Rep and for co-ordinating the work of the CPC's throughout the Province. Sinead has been succeeded in this role by Pauline Lucas and we are very much looking forward to an exciting time ahead in the coming years.

The foundations for quality Scouting has been laid by having quality training and Programme Supports. The one thing that puts this all into action is the Scouters who put 110% in every week into their Scouting. During 2007 Chief Scouts Commendation Awards were made to 14 Scouters, 12 Scouters received Bronze Merit Awards, 8 Scouters received Silver Merit Awards and 2 Scouters received Gold Merit Awards. 5 Scouts and Scouters also received Honour Awards for their acts of bravery during the year. Their selflessness in acting to assist others in time of need is to be commended and we thank them for it.

Special recognition is to be given 5 Scouters who were all awarded the Order of Cu-Chullain in 2007. Our congratulations go to David Keogh (132nd Dublin Bayside), George Cathcart (28th Dublin, 7th Port Howth), Pauline Lucas (12th Dublin, 5th Port Dollymount), Bernard Marron (3rd Monaghan Carrickmacross) and Kitty Hand (3rd Monaghan Carrickmacross). Your inspiring Leadership and service to Scouting is admirable and deserves our thanks.

It has been a remarkable year of Scouting within the Province and we very much look forward to continuing our tradition of growing year on year in terms of membership, Programme, Training and opportunities we present to the young people & Scouters within our Province. Membership growth of 2.3% during 2007 is sure to be exceeded this year with the opening of new Groups and with some others in the pipeline. The

Province intends to build on the work of our conference in February 2007 where we offered lots of opportunities to Scouters to get new ideas and learn from each other about what we do. There is no challenge for Scouting that we cannot tackle and overcome within the Province so long as we continue to work together towards our goal of better Scouting to more young people.

2008 is set to be an amazing year for Scouting and the highlight will undoubtedly be Jamboree 2008. The Province has dedicated its manpower to making this Jamboree work and celebrating the centenary of Irish Scouting in style.

Jimmy Cunningham Provincial Commissioner North Eastern Province





South East Province



*Francis Minogue
Provincial Commissioner*

2007 was a very busy year in the South East. It was a year of much change and a year in which overall much progress was made. I would like to thank everyone who supported me in my election as Provincial Commissioner in June 2007. The last six months have personally been challenging but seeing the huge progress across the Province has made it a very rewarding period.

Membership numbers continue on an upward trend with the 6,000 youth members barrier likely to be broken during 2008.

For the first time the South East now has a full Provincial Team with people active in all the key positions. A big thanks to all on the team for their support during 2007. The Provincial Team and County Commissioners at the end of 2007 were
Brendan Doherty, Treasurer

Gillian Ryan, Secretary

Brian Gray, NARC Rep

David Clerkin, Provincial Programme Co-ordinator

Ollie Kehoe, Provincial Training Co-ordinator

Aidan Brennan, International Representative

Damien Scanlan, Annette Byrne, John Watmore, Tom O'Neill,

Tony May and Marie Murphy (County Commissioners)

A new Provincial Plan was agreed during 2007, this plan will form the basis of the support the Province will give its Counties & Groups during the coming years.

A big thanks to Justin Maher, PSO and Caroline Healy, GSF for their work during the year in supporting us all.

Programme

2007 was full of highlights on the Programme front. The Provincial Youth Conference in December in Mount Melleray with over 200 Scouts & Ventures from over 30 Groups across the Province present for the weekend. A Provincial panel of 9



Scouts and 9 Ventures from each of the Counties were elected to help promote Youth Participation at all levels in the Province during 2008. Thanks to Fiona Fenneally our only rep during 2007 on either the Scout or Venture National Forums.

The Phoenix was held in the Province during August based in the Curragh Camp and hiking in the Wicklow mountains. The 7 Scout Counties in the Province were each represented in the event with each of the Patrols doing their Group & County proud. Well done to St. Pauls from Waterford for bringing the Phoenix trophy home to the South East with 4th Kildare Naas an excellent 4th and top performances from all the other patrols.

The Cub and Scout National Challenge Days were hosted by the Slieve Bloom County. Well done on an excellent event and well done to the 6th Offaly Banagher Cubs & 6th Tipperary Roscrea Scouts from coming third in their respective events.

The Province had a good representation of participants and IST at the World Jamboree in Hylands Park.

Well done to the following 11 Scouts who received their Chief Scout Awards during 2007. A particular word to their parents and Scout Leaders who provided support in the background.



Barbara Moriarty-Pearson (3rd Kildare/1st Celbridge); Shane White (25th Wexford) ; David Ivery & Andrew Kelly (9th Wicklow); Grainne Nolan, Jennifer Skelton & Rita Doyle (3rd Carlow); Patrick Brennan & David Byrne (2nd Wexford Group); Leane Eustace (5th Kildare); Darragh O'Callaghan (3rd/7th/13th Waterford)

Training

The first Group Leader course in four years was run early in 2007 with some 24 Group & Deputy Group Leaders in attendance.

A big thanks to all to Trainers in the Province for delivering a high standard of training throughout 2007. The total number of participants in 2007 on the various courses were:

Scouting Fundamentals 120 ; Section Essentials 96
Overnights 90; Scouting Leadership 75; Group Leader 24
and Child Protection 70 .

These numbers do not include the numerous skills courses and individual training in Sections and Groups across the Province.

Well done to Dave Rogers on the receipt of his 4th Woodbead and Regina Wallace, Karol Quinn and John Culbert on the receipt of their 3rd Woodbeads.



Camping & Activity Facilities

Much progress was made in 2007 on enhancing the facilities across the Province. Mount Melleray continues to develop at a great pace. Well done to the 4th Waterford Abbesside on the opening of their new cabin at Glenshelane and the 6th Tipperary Roscrea on the opening of their new hostel and campsite at Srahan.

Cu Chulainn Awards

During the year 8 of Scouting Ireland's highest adult awards were presented to Scouters from the South East well done to all for their service to scouting over the years. A big thanks also to all the other adult award recipients during 2007.

Kevin Murphy, 5th Carlow Carlow Town
Colin Whelan, 5th Carlow Carlow Town
Sean Hayes, 19th/29th Waterford Ballygunnar
David Rogers, 3rd/7th/13th Waterford De La Salle
Noel Ryan, 6th Tipperary Roscrea
Kitty Reade, 9th Kildare Kilcullen
Dick Reade, 9th Kildare Kilcullen
Jo Coy, 4th Kildare Naas

Carlow / Kilkenny

November 2007 saw a change in County Commissioner with John Watmore from Bennetsbridge taking over from Aidan Brennan. A big thanks to Aidan for his work over the past few years.

Major success of the year was the Centenary camp held over 4 days on the May bank holiday in Innistioge, Co. Kilkenny attended by more than 700 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and





Scouters. This incorporated the annual Scout County camp skills competition the Sherwood Cup won by 1st Kilkenny. Both the annual Cub camp and the Beaver fun day were well attended in Borris, Co. Carlow.

The year has been commemorated with an excellently produced calendar for 2008 featuring many photographs of the various events held around the county and those participating in 2007.

Slieve Bloom

During 2007 Slieve Bloom welcomed new Groups in the 5th Offaly Coolderry and the 7th Laois Camross and welcomed back after a twelve month break the 1st Laois Mountmellick Group. During 2007 the County was transitioning between County Commissioners a situation that was resolved in January 2008. Well done to all those you worked on the County Team during this changeover period.

Regina Wallace, the Counties CTC received her well deserved third bead during the year. 2007 was a very busy year for the County on the Programme front with numerous activities for all programme sections.

South Kildare

The County welcomed a new Group in Blessington in February. South Kildare also welcomed Portarlington into the County in late 2007. Jo Coy the Group Leader in 4th Kildare Naas was appointed as the Sub Camp Chief for the South East Sub Camp at Jamboree 2008.

The first annual County Day took place in Donadea in March, the County Flag was blessed and the Chief Scout was present to raise the flag for the first time. Martin Burbridge welcomed Annette Byrne as the new Commissioner for South Kildare. Other highlights of the year include the County Shield, County Cub and Scout Challenge Days and the various events. The Counties first adult awards night took place in October with many leaders receiving service awards, meritorious awards and we had 3 leaders receive the Order of Cu Chulainn.

Cill Dara

2007 was a very busy year for the Cill Dara Scout County with a very busy County Programme, one of the highlights of the year was the County Cub Weekend in April in Mount Melleray with over 250 cubs and leaders from the county in attendance and a Charity Day in Cellbridge Abbey.

The County welcomed a new Group in the 22nd Kildare Sallins into the fold during the last year.

Cill Mhantain

Members of two Groups from the County attended the World Jamboree. The Scout Groups in Newtownmountkennedy and Kilmacanogue amalgamated in 2007. Programme highlights during the year included the annual Splashdown event in Arklow.

The 1st Wicklow Greystones Group continued in the pilot scheme for the New Proposed Programme.

Wexford

The Groups in Wexford remained very active during 2007 with four travelling abroad for their Annual Camp and members from two attending the World Jamboree. Towards the end of the year the County team was strengthened significantly with the filling of all the positions on the County team.

Early in 2008 new groups will be starting in River Chappel and Carnew.

Waterford

Members from the County received 4 awards from the Waterford Voluntary Youth Council in 2007. Brian O'Connor St. Paul's with the Uniformed & Rescue Youth Volunteer of the year. Eoin Smith of the Del LaSalle pipe band with Youth Volunteer Music & Culture award, and Tom O'Neill the Uniformed Youth Leader of the Year.

The Del LaSalle Pipe Band received the Overall Voluntary Youth Group of the Year, the pipe band had played a leading role in the Sunrise ceremony at the World Jamboree. During the year a new Group in Tramore and the County enjoyed a very active year in both the programme and training areas.

Finally as we look back on an excellent 2007 let us remember the Scouters from the Province who have gone to the great campsite in the sky. Our prayers and best wishes are with your families.

Francis Minogue
Provincial Commissioner
South East Scout Province



Southern Province



*Pat Roche
Provincial Commissioner*

It has been an action-packed year in the Southern Province with a host of highlights and, perhaps most important of all, firm reason for us to say that great Scouting was provided for all our members.

The year started with the news that the Province was to host the National Council in June and we put forward the proposal for the Gleneagles Hotel in Killarney. The event was a great success not least thanks to the fact the sun and summer was in Killarney for that weekend - and that weekend only! At the Conference our Provincial Commissioner was elected unopposed to the position of Chief Commissioner for Adult Resources. This was a great Privilege for the Province to see Michael John Shinnick being elevated to the rank of Chief Commissioner Adult Resources – we wish him well. Scouters from the Province made a presentation to Michael John on behalf of all the Counties in the Southern Province.

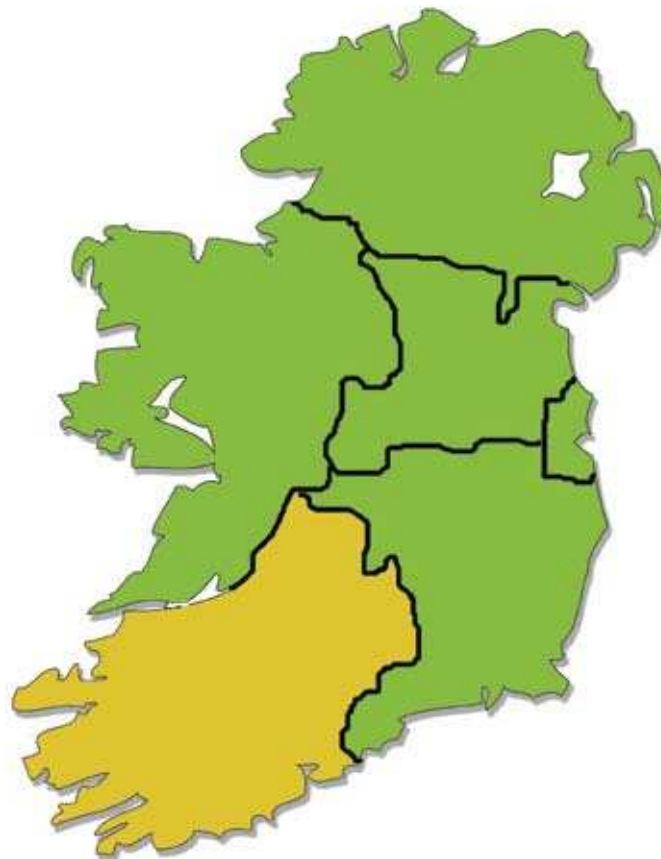
I was nominated as the new Commissioner and I took up my position in June 2007.

Woggle Talk

The Provincial Magazine was printed for the first time at the end of the year and is proving to be a great success. We thank the sponsors for the funding in getting the magazine printed and our aim is to have it circulated to all leaders within the province. I also wish to thank Pat O'Mahoney for his invaluable help as editor over the past number of years.

Training

This continued in the Province over the year and the Counties also held a number of courses during the year. You can see



from the enclosed table the number of courses organised throughout the province it is fair to say that training goes from strength to strength.

Development

We have a number of groups nearly ready for reopening and they will be up and running in the Province by the end of the year. They are

5th Cork Skibbereen

8th Tipp Cashel

34th Tipp Clonoulty





There were also a number of new sections opened in the Province during the past year - we see great potential for some groups to introduce new sections. These - we hope - will be possible with the aid of our new Group Support Facilitators (G.S.F's) working on the ground.

Looking to the future we hope to reopen the Mallow group and Limerick County are exploring the possibility of adding a new group in Limerick city centre.

Conference

The annual conference for the Province took place in the Rochestown Park Hotel in Cork on the 17th of September. This year we also held our first ever youth conference in the same venue on the same day. This was a great success.

The Chief Scout Martin Burbridge, National Comm. (YP) Kiernan Gildea, National Comm. (AR) Michael John Shinnick and National Training Comm. John Brennan attended both the Youth Conference and the Adult conference where discussions ranged from the Jamboree, The New Youth Programme, Training and Communications. About 120 Scouts from all over the Province attended the youth conference and 100 adult leaders were present. We look forward to West Cork next Year.



Chief Scout Awards

Name	Group	Award
Robert Shalloo	55th Cork	CSA
Paul Hogan	18/19th Cork	CSA
Simon Henley Willis	28th Cork	CSA
Joe Kellegher	28th Cork	CSA
Luke Regan	2nd Kerry	CSA
Sarah Brady	1/4/22/32 Tipp.	CSA





New Groups and Sections

Group	Sections	Section	Date	Open
Clonoulty	Beavers	Cubs	Oct. 2007	Yes
Skibbereen	Beavers	Cubs	Nov. 2007	Yes
Mitchelstown		Cubs	Sept. 2007	Yes
Watergrasshill	Cubs		Nov. 2007	No
Tarbert	Cubs		Nov. 2007	No
Lisavaird	Beavers	Cubs	Nov. 2007	

Training

Courses	Type	Date	Section	Number
Kerry County	Fundamentals	February	All	10
Kerry County	Essentials	February	C/S	22
West Cork	Fundamentals	March	All	19
Cork Counties	Essentials	March	B/C/S	22
Limerick County	Fundamentals	May	All	19
Limerick County	Essentials	May	C/S	22
North Cork	Fundamentals	October	All	32
West Cork	Fundamentals	October	All	8
North Cork	Essentials	November	B/S/V	26

Awards Merit and Honour

Jimmy O'Donnell	Tralee	Order of cu Chulainn
Nell Madden	34th Limerick	Bronze Merit
Elma Collins	19th Cork	Gold Merit
Rena Beaminsh	19th Cork	Bronze Merit
Nathalie Chainey	19th Cork	Chief Scout Comm.
Sinead Johns	97th Cork	Bronze Merit
Kay Moloney	34th Limerick	Chief Scout Comm.
Siobhain O'Connell	34th Limerick	Chief Scout Comm.
Deirde Ryan	34th Limerick	Bronze Merit
Joe McKeown	34th Limerick	Gold Merit

Team

Provincial Management Team: County Commissioners - Bernie Brennan, Brendan Lynch, Lucy Kay, Chris McSweeney, Richard Pumphrey, Sheila Power, Pat Roche (retired June 07), Jimmy O'Donnell, John Almer, Martin Flahive. Mary O'Regan(P.T.), Enda Downey (P.T.C), Tim Calvert (P.S. retired Sept 07), Marian Hurley (P.S), Morgan O'Sullivan (P.P.C retired Sept 07), Jennifer O'Regan (P.I.C.) John Brennan (P.A.C. retired Sept 07), Barry McInerney (P.A.C.), Paudy O'Brien (P.P.C) Denis Kirby (P.D.C.), Neil Collins PSO, Jimmy O'Donnell GSF, Ruth Hughes GSF.

Future

I believe my tenure as commissioner will be an exciting one - no doubt it will also present challenges but I promise to give of my best to Scouting Ireland both as Provincial Commissioner and as a member of the N.M.C.. We have a lot to look forward to - our 100 anniversary celebrations, Jamboree 2008 and proposals on a New Youth Programme etc.

In December 2007 our province received additional resources with the employment of two group support officers, I wish to welcome on board Ruth Hughes and Jimmy O'Donnell who will work alongside Neil Collins P.S.O. Over the coming months I hope that groups and counties will see the benefit of our new employees.

Conclusion

To all who supported me since my appointment in June last – a big thank you. Keep up the great work.

Pat Roche Provincial Commissioner Southern Province

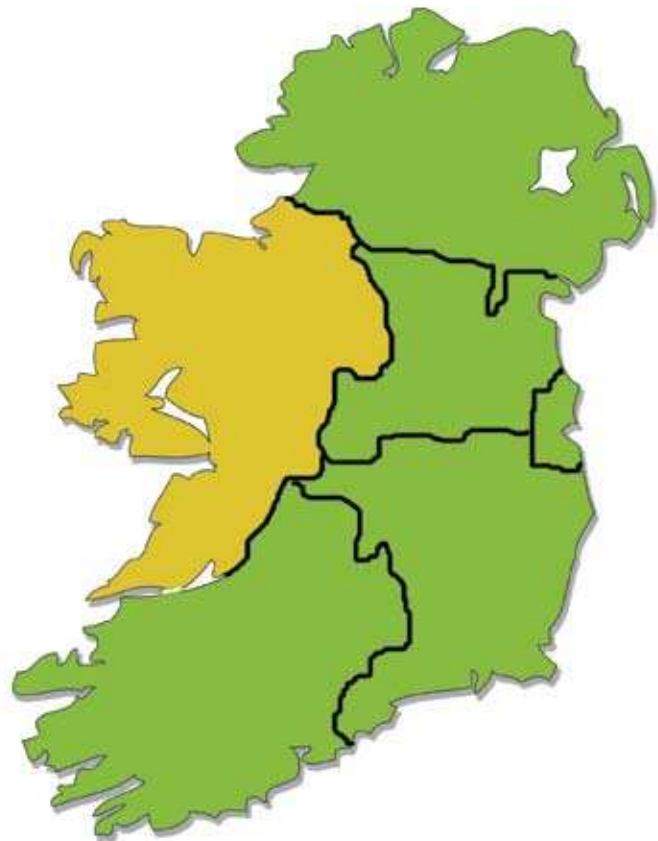




Western Province



Julie Malone
Provincial Commissioner



Provincial Training

Woodbadge Leader Training 2007
61 People from the Province completed Keeping Safe – Children First training with the HSE

New Groups....

- 13th Sligo (Ballisodare)
- 17th Galway (Gort)
- 2nd Galway (Tuam) Re-opened
- 29th Galway (Killanin)
- 10th Galway opened a Satellite Group

New Sections

- 1st Galway opened a new Scout Section
- 1/11th Roscommon opened a Beaver and Cub section
- 22nd Mayo opened a new Sea Scout Section

Provincial Activities

- Revamped newsletter launched for Christmas
- 1st Galway and 1st Mayo went to Kanderstag
- 20th Mayo and 9th Mayo attended an International Jamboree in Holland
- 5/22 Clare had annual camp in Switzerland
- 1/4th Clare had annual camp in Gibraltar and Spain
- A 40-member contingent attended the Centenary Jamboree in the UK

Results of Groups in National Events

Cubs

National Cub Challenge

- 1st Leitrim 2nd Place
- 1st Roscommon 14th Place
- 14th Clare 16th place
- 5th Clare 21st Place

Woodbadge Leader Training 2007

Course	Venue	Date	No. of Leaders
Section Essentials (3 sections)	Galway	27/1/07	51
Scouting Fundamentals	Sligo	8/12/07	6
Section Essentials (3 sections)	Sligo	31/3/07	37
Section Skills	Lough Keel	28-29/4/07	59
Scouting Fundamentals	Ballinsloe	March	6
Scouting Fundamentals	Portumna	1/9/07	22
Scouting Fundamentals	Galway	15/9/07	21
Scouting Fundamentals	Ennis	29/9/07	32
Scouting Fundamentals	Claremorris	13/10/07	20
Scouting Leadership	Castlebar	3-4/11/07	28
Totals			282





Scouts

National Scout Challenge

- 1st Roscommon 2nd Place
- 12th Roscommon 8th Place
- 1/4th Clare 14th Place
- 5/22nd Clare 16th Place

The Phoenix Challenge
13th Galway 17th Place

Talent Expo

- Sean & Gerard Kennedy – Duet 1st Place
- Conor Arkins- Slow Air 2nd Place

Provincial Management Team,

- Provincial Training Co Ordinator Tommy Flaherty
- Provincial Programme Co Ordinator Frank Lee
- Adult Resources Rep Tommy Flaherty
- International Rep Henry Doherty

Youth Reps

- Venturer Ciarán Greene
- Scout Sorcha Gannon
- Provincial Support Officer Joe Doherty
- Group Support Facilitator Danny Habermann

County Commissioners

- Clare Fiona Staunton
- Galway Tommy Flaherty
- Lg. Keel Duncan McGregor-Tompkins
- Mayo Colm Dunne
- Yeats Willie Murphy

My thanks to Noel Keaney (Clare) and David Kiely (Sligo) who stepped down as County Commissioners during the year.

Youth Participation

All counties held Youth Fora and sent representatives to the National Fora. Our elected Youth Reps are playing their part in the Province

The P.C. Review

2007 was an exciting year with people attending many different and diverse activities and camps. We were well represented at the World Jamboree in the UK with a strong contingent of 40 people. Their troop name was Eske and despite their mascot I don't think anyone of them was ever 'Grumpy'. They represented the West in style with their Band who had the honour of playing at the beginning of the Closing Ceremony, I am only sorry that I could not be there as part of the Contingent. We had many other Groups camping in Ireland and Internationally, with some of them making local and National Papers promoting Scouting in a positive fashion.



We had a leader in Sligo, Michael McGlynn, who was nominated for a County Sligo Person of the Year award and Michael also won a Vodafone Volunteer of the year award. Well done, Michael.

Our Training Team consists of a small band of people and while they are small in numbers they make up for it with enthusiasm and commitment to training. Two of our trainers undertook training with the HSE (West) to become qualified Keeping Safe-Children First Trainers. They have been successful and can now give the HSE course.

Again we saw an increase in our numbers in the Province and this is as a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the Group Leaders, County Commissioners and their teams working with the Provincial Team to promote and develop Scouting within the Province. I thank all those who have given of their time, to those who have stepped down I say thank you for your work and I look forward to working with you again in the future. To those who have joined us during the year I welcome you on board/welcome you back and trust that we will work well together.

For Jamboree 2008 we have a strong team of 30 staff members for our Sub-Camp, who are all enthusiastic and ready to make it GREAT for everyone on our Sub-Camp. We also have a large number of groups from the Province who have applied for a place on the Jamboree.

I would like to acknowledge the Provincial Management Support Team for their work on behalf of Scouting, your undying commitment is greatly appreciated. Finally, as always I acknowledge and thank my family for their continued support to me.

Julie Malone
Provincial Commissioner
Western Province





Dublin Scout Province



Anne Smythers
Provincial Commissioner

The year under review has been a year of change for the Dublin Scout Province. While core activities including adult training have progressed under the excellent stewardship of Gay Davoren; the Dublin Scout Province has been drifting and lacking purpose for the close to two years and in doing so has failed to catch the imagination of Scouters in Dublin and ultimately failed to highlight its relevance to local Scouting.

Coming into this role in an official capacity half way through 2007, I spent some time over the summer speaking with County Commissioners and indeed with Group Scouters to attempt to ascertain their expectations of what the Scout province should be doing.

In addition, I spoke with other Provincial Commissioners to see how their Provinces worked and areas they found to present a particular challenge.

From September (once all were back from summer camp, including me), I resolved to work with the County Commissioners and those in volunteer Provincial Support roles to change the way the Dublin Scout Province worked, in order to ensure that the time and effort of these people was going to be seen as the very relevant work it is, from the perspective of local scouters.



I'm delighted to say that the Dublin Scout Province is back.

From January 2008, we have changed the way that the Provincial Team works. Our previous two-hour mid-week monthly meetings have been replaced in favour of 1 day meetings, five times a year. This provides time for debate, space for problems to be shared and resolved, scope for relationships to be strengthened within the Province and has already led to a huge increase in attendance and productivity at these important gatherings.

Dublin Scout Province Team 2007 membership:

Anne Smythers, Provincial Commissioner

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Gay Davoren, | Provincial Training Coordinator |
| Michael Donlan, | Provincial Treasurer |
| Aidan Smith, | Provincial Secretary (from Sept - Nov) |
| Anne Browne | Adult Resources Representative |
| Peter Sheehan., | Youth Programme Representative |
| Glenn Webster, | NVFC Representative |
| Anna Davy, | SQS Rep (from Sept 2007) |





County Commissioners

Betty Barry,	Tolka
Karen Scully,	Dodder
Alan Carroll,	Dublinia
Aidan Smith,	Cluain Toirc
Niall Duignan,	Liffey West
Anna Davy,	Montpelier
Kieran Kelly,	Dun Laoghaire
James Carroll,	Three Rock
Vacant,	Cois Ferraige

The Team welcomed four new County Commissioners: Betty Barry, Alan Carroll, Kieran Kelly & James Carroll. Karen Scully was nominated for second term. County Commissioners who retired in 2007 included Pat Black, Noel O'Connor and Pauline Reynolds. Our thanks to them for their invaluable work.

We have further strengthened the Provincial Management team. I'm pleased to have the time and expertise of a number of new members who join an already strong and vibrant team.

Garrett Flynn	Provincial Secretary
Jennifer Lynn Simpson	Provincial International Representative
Patrick Costello	Public Relations Officer
Fr Brian Lawless	Spiritual Advisor

Welcome also to Niamh Woods, Group Support Facilitator who joined during late 2007

In March 2008, the Province unveiled its new name (Dublin Scout Province) and a brand new visual identity to help unite all Scouters in Dublin around a reinvigorated Provincial Support Team.

Communication will be a key focus for 2008 across the Dublin Scout Province as we seek to ensure that as many Scouters as possible know everything they need to know about Scouting in Dublin.

Later this year, we will announce collaboration with a leading Irish charity as the Scouters of the Dublin Scout Province seek to champion Scouting as a leader of social change in Dublin.

New Groups in 2007

87 Dublin Polish Group	Dublinia	Cubs & Scouts
------------------------	----------	---------------

New Sections in 2007

3 Dublin Stillorgan	Dun Laoghaire	Venture Scouts
127 Dublin Drumcondra	Cluain Toirc	Venture Scouts
58/85 Dublin Donnycarney	Cluain Toirc	Venture Scouts
44/93 Dublin Crumlin	Dublinia	Beaver Scouts
139 Dublin Chapelizod	Dublinia	Scouts
31 Dublin Rathfarnham	Dodder	Venture Scouts

During 2007, the Province trained 449 Scouters. We were privileged to count amongst our membership eight Explorer Belt recipients and eleven Chief Scout award recipients. We opened a brand new group (87th Dublin) with a focus





on integrating our many friends in the Polish community into Scouting Ireland. We sent ten patrols to the Phoenix Challenge. Above all, over 600 scouters worked together week in, week out to deliver Scouting to close to 5,500 scouts across Dublin.



Provincial Training

COURSE TYPE	No.COURSES	No. PARTICIPANTS
Scouting Fundamentals	5	147
Beaver Essentials	2	28
Cub Essentials	2	35
Scout Essentials	2	44
Beaver Slumber	1	12
Cub Pack Holidays	1	25
Scout Overnights	1	18
Group Leader Training	2	56
Child Protection Training	3	52
First Aid Training	3	32
Totals	22 Courses;	449 Participants

Welcome to Scouting 412 Packs

Venues used:
 54/88 Dun Laoghaire Den, 177 Dub Glasnevin Den, Kingston Hotel, Scout Resource Centre Parnell Road, Dublin Provincial Office, 62/71Dub Kilmacud Den, 86 Dub Mount Merrion Den, 115 Dub Ballinteer Den, 146 Dub Firhouse Den, 29 Dub Blackrock Den, 3/4/41 Dub Donnybrook Den.
 Our appreciation to our venue providers.

Awards

- ADULT – Cu Chulainn**
- 32 Dublin Rathgar Tina Finn
- 35 Dublin Donore Avenue Paddy Sullivan
- 125 Dublin Old Bawn Una O'Malley
- 9/10 Dublin Aughrim St & Provincial Commissioner Joe Marken
- 45th Mount Argus Paudge Eustace

Venture – Explorer Belt

- 54 Dublin Cornelscourt Philip Ryan; 54 Dublin Cornelscourt David Mac Neill; 65 Dublin Greenhills Neil Bolger; 65 Dublin Greenhills ; Bryan Mills; 112 Dublin Knocklyon Colm Cashman; 112 Dublin Knocklyon Andrew Clarke; 112 Dublin Knocklyon Emma Hogan; 112 Dublin Knocklyon Katie Diamond.

Scout – Chief Scout Award

- Cillian Forde 54 Dublin Group; Oisin Maguire 94 Dublin Group; Evelyn Ball 12 Dublin/5 Port Group; Isobel Wilson 12 Dublin/5 Port Group; Katie Murphy 12 Dublin/5 Port Group; Susan Flannery 12 Dublin/5 Port Group; Robert Tellgren 45 Dublin Group; Maurizio Martone 45 Dublin Group; Shane McEntaggart 45 Dublin Group; Niall Breen 45 Dublin Group ; Allen McConnell 91 Dublin Group.

As we enter 2008, I can confidently say to all of those Scouters; Scouting in Dublin is now represented by a strong, capable and focused team of enthusiastic and dedicated County Commissioners and others. We undertake to work to help you in your work in any way that we can for the year ahead.

Anne Smithers,
 Provincial Commissioner – Dublin Scout Province



Northern Province

Wendy Morrow
Interim Provincial Commissioner

I submit this report as the Interim Provincial commissioner for the Northern Province due to the resignation of Noel McCartney as Provincial Commissioner in January 2008. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Noel for all his hard work and dedication to Scouting Ireland and in particular to the Northern Province. Noel will be a very hard act to follow!!

The Northern Province has 5 Scout Counties and all are led by active and supportive County Commissioners. Thanks are due to Joe Corey, County Commissioner - Brian Boru, Paul Browne, County Commissioner - Down and Connor, Tony Smith, County Commissioner - Erne, John McQueen, County Commissioner - Errigal and George Fleeton, County Commissioner - North East Ulster. Tony took over as County Commissioner in Erne in December 2007 from Mark Allen and I would like to acknowledge and thank Mark for all his hard work as County Commissioner in Erne.

The other members of the Provincial Support Team at the end of 2007 were Treasurer - Mary Hogg, NARC Rep. - John Meikleham, International Rep. - Mandy McCann, Youth Programme Rep. - Gerard Henderson, Provincial Training Coordinator - Brian Hughes and Youth Forum Rep. - Gerard Fee.

2007 saw major changes in the Northern Province with the appointment of 4 part - time professional staff members. A very warm welcome to Mo Treacy - Provincial Administrator, Sinclair Trotter, Kevin Ferguson and Eithne Davis - Group Support Facilitators. All 4 are now well settled into their new posts and are an integral part of the Provincial Team.

Training

Training is to the forefront in the Northern Province, led by Brian Hughes and his enthusiastic team. During 2007, the breakdown of course participants was as follows -

Fundamentals - 73: Section Essentials - 80: Skills - 32
Leadership - 26: Overnights - 40: Child Protection - 15

Programme

Two major Provincial events were held during 2007. In May, 2007, a Provincial Camp was held at Crawfordsburn - "Camp North". 240 Cubs, 193 Scouts and 35 Venturers along with 86 Leaders (a grand total of 554) attended the camp which had a viking theme. Thanks to Camp Chief, Declan McKenna and all his team for their organisation and running of the camp.



In November 2007, the Northern Province hosted an "Activity Day" at the Odyssey Arena, Belfast for the Scout age group. Approximately 630 young people and Leaders from 34 Groups attended the day - 18 Scouting Ireland Groups and 16 Groups from Scout Association Northern Ireland and the Guides. Activities held during the day included abseiling, bowling, a climbing wall and the cinema. Money was given to two charities as a result of the day with both the Air Ambulance and BBC Children in Need receiving approx. £500 each.

Special mention should be made of the completion during 2007 of a major refurbishment of Ballyhorman Scout Centre in Down and Connor Scout County. This was marked by a special re-dedication ceremony performed by the Auxilliary Bishop of Down and Connor, Bishop Donal McKeown, the Minister for Education, Catriona Ruane and the Chief Scout, Martin Burbridge.

Awards

Special recognition should be given to 4 Scouters who were awarded the Order of Cu-Chulain in 2007. Congratulations to Joe Corey, County Commissioner, Brian Boru County, Joe Kavanagh, Chairman, Down and Connor County, John Meikleham, 33rd Belfast Group and Wendy Morrow, 3rd Donegal (Raphoe) Group. Congratulations to all other adult award recipients during 2007.

Special congratulations to 10 Venturers who completed and were awarded their explorer belts in 2007 - Orlaith McCann, Claire McAroe, Hannah Anderson, Leanne McCormick, Mark Thompson, Brendan Kettle, Shane Donnelly, Mark Craig, Chris Sisk and Michael Daly

The Northern Province is looking forward to 2008 and the jamboree and to whatever new challenges that Scouting may bring!

Wendy Morrow
Interim Provincial Commissioner
Northern Province



Overview of the Chief Executive Officer



*Eamonn Lynch
Chief Executive Officer*



The year 2007 was another good year in the incremental development of the Association. There was further expansion in the level of support being provided to the Provinces. This support came in the form of three additional part-time development Officers in the Northern Province and the recruitment of 7 extra Group Support Facilitators in either a full-time or part-time role in each of the Provinces. There was an increase in the membership of 1% and there was also a significant number of leader applications who were submitted for Garda vetting.

The Association received an increase in the Base Line funding of 7.5% from the Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education and Science and further received a once-off grant of €341,000 which was granted by the Minister of Youth Affairs, Mr Sean Haughey T.D.

The Castle Saunderson Project whose mooted sale had been held in abeyance for one year had the potential to be re-established albeit on a smaller scale due to the intervention of Cavan County Council who established exploratory talks with the Association on a possible partnership proposal for the Project.

The Association received a new database for the membership and annual census and a huge volume of work was carried out throughout 2007 in formulating and testing the operating systems for the new database.

2007 also saw the commencement of the organisation and planning for Jamboree 2008 and planning for other celebratory events for the Centenary Year in 2008.

Support to the Provinces

In May 2007 and in June 2007, a decision was made to provide additional professional support to each of the six Scouting Provinces in the Associations. It was decided that the support would be in the form of one additional Provincial Group Support Facilitators in each Provinces, with the further proviso that the position could be one full-time person or two part-time employees. Advertising and recruitment commenced in the autumn of 2007 and by years end seven full-time and part-time Group Support Facilitators had been recruited for all of the Scouting Provinces. As a result of hiring this additional staff, the NMC, at its November 2007 meeting, appointed Sean Farrell as Manager for Provincial Support Staff, with responsibility for the management and supervision of all support staff to include: - Provincial Support Officers and Group Support Facilitators.

In March 2007, Mr Damien O'Sullivan was appointed as Support Officer for all of the Associations' Campsites and facilities and in July 2007 Mr James Usher was appointed as Warden of the National Camp site in Larch Hill.





National Youth Work Advisory Committee

The National Youth Work Advisory Committee held seven meetings in 2007. The term of appointment of the NYWAC committee expired in April 2007 and a new NYWAC committee was formed in May 2007. The composition of the new committee reflects the relevance of NYWAC to the Youth Work Sector, as is evidenced by the involvement of senior professional staff from all of the major Youth Organisations in NYCI on the new NYWAC committee.

Mrs Joan McKeivitt of Scouting Ireland decided to retire from active involvement in NYWAC after stalwart service of ten years to the two former NYWAC committees. The Association is indebted to her for her contribution to NYWAC and the Youth Work Sector on behalf of Scouting Ireland.

Quality Standards Framework Initiative for Youth Work. The Assessor of Youth Work, Mr Conor Rowley and a sub committee of NYWAC have introduced a Quality Standards Framework Initiative for Youth Work. The rationale for the development of the QSF Initiative is to provide the support and development tool to organisations and projects, establish standards in practice and provision of Youth Work, provide an enhanced evidence base for Youth Work, ensure resources are used effectively in the Youth Work sector, and provide a basis for whole-organisational assessment. This QSF Initiative is to be set up on a Pilot basis and expressions of interest have been invited from all organisations in the Youth Work Sector. This Initiative is an exciting new development in the Youth Work Sector and should provide many benefits to all organisations in the Youth Work Sector including Scouting Ireland.

Child Protection. A review of the Code of Good Practise of the Youth Work Sector was conducted in 2007. The Review has now been completed and the second draft of the Code should be finalised in early 2008. A total of 7,574 personnel were vetted by the Gardai for the Youth Work Sector by the end of October 2007 and of that figure, Scouting Ireland had 1,047 personnel vetted. Due to the large number of personnel being vetted for membership in Scouting Ireland, the Association received sanction to appoint a second authorised signatory to process the volume of applications for leader positions in the Association. Additional funding of €30,000 was also allocated to the Association from the Minister of Youth Affairs to cater for the additional administrative burden associated with the vetting of leader applications.

National Youth Council of Ireland. The CPO Ms Phil Stapleton was elected to the Board of NYCI, at their Annual Meeting in November 2007, as one of the two representatives for Uniformed Organisations on the Board of NYCI.

The Associations Strategy

The Associations Strategy which had been formulated for the years 2004 – 2007, concluded in 2007. The Strategy achieved many of its objectives notably the establishment of a review of the Youth Programme, running of a series of National Events specifically designed to complement the local Scout Youth Programme, establishing a public image of Scouting which is clear, relevant and up to date and attractive to young people and adults from a large variety of backgrounds, review of the work of County, Provincial and National Teams and increasing the retention of the membership and increasing the youth member numbers.





All of the objectives in the 2004 – 2007 strategy were not achieved, however, very significant progress was made and a new Committee was formed from the membership of the National Management Committee to formulate a new Strategy for 2008 and beyond. During the later part of 2007, SWOT analyses were submitted by all the relevant stake holders.

Professional Staff

There was a significant increase in the level of staff during 2007. In the Northern Province both Maura Cormican and Sinclair Trotter completed their contracts with Scouting Ireland and in August 2007, three part-time personnel commenced work with the Northern Province as follows: - Sinclair Trotter, Development Support Officer in the Eastern part of the Province and Kevin Ferguson Development Support Officer in the Western part of the Province, and Mo Treacy was employed as Management Support Officer in SFNI office in Lisburn. In September and October, following the decision of the NMC to recruit six Group Support Facilitators, one for each Province, advertisements were placed in the papers and interviews took place in October and November of 2007. The following personnel were recruited as Group Support Facilitators in a full-time capacity: - James Fox in the North Eastern Province, Daniel Habermann in the Western Province and Niamh Woods in the Dublin Metropolitan Province. The following personnel were recruited as part-time Group Support Facilitators: - Eithne Davis in the Northern Province, Jimmy O'Donnell in the Southern Province, Ruth Hughes in the Southern Province, Caroline Healy in the South Eastern Province and at the time of writing this report two vacancies for part-time positions were vacant with the anticipation that these vacancies will be filled in early 2008. In March 2007,

Damien O'Sullivan, the Warden in Larch Hill Campsite, was appointed as Support Officer for Campsites and Facilities of the Association, his vacancy was then advertised and in July 2007 and James Usher was appointed as Warden of Larch Hill.

Funding

At the start of 2007 Scouting Ireland received 7.5% increase in funding from the Youth Service Grant Scheme which is administered by the Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education and Science. In the latter half of the year following a meeting between the Minister of State for Youth Affairs in the Department of Education and Science, Mr Sean Haughey T.D., the Chief Scout, the National Treasurer and the CEO; a once-off grant of €341,000 for 2007 was received by the Association in December 2007.

Castle Saunderson

The Castle Saunderson Estate was scheduled for a decision on whether it was to be sold or retained by the Association at National Council in 2007. Following a last minute intervention by the Cavan County Council in June 2007, immediately prior to National Council, to enter into a partnership arrangement to maintain the Project, albeit on a reduced scale, it was decided by National Council that any sale of the Estate should be postponed for six months pending the development of proposals which could rescue the Project. A sub-committee under the Chairmanship of the Provincial Commissioner for the North East Province, Jimmy Cunningham, was formed and it consisted of four representatives from the Cavan-Monaghan Scout County, three representatives from the NMC and the CEO. At the time of writing this report, negotiations were at



an advanced stage with Cavan County Council on proposals that had been submitted by them to provide a viable option for a reduced scale campsite and a partnership arrangement with Cavan County Council.

Jamboree 2008

The Jamboree committee met monthly to initiate plans and organisational structures for the forthcoming Jamboree in 2008. The projected number of participants of 10,000 was secured by the first offer of places in the autumn of 2007. Because of the volume of work involved in planning, co-ordinating and managing a project of this size it was decided to recruit a Camp Manager, and Mr Paul Carey was recruited as a full-time manager to provide vital assistance to the Camp Chief and his team. A Financial Administrator Mr Allan Bourke was also recruited in December 2007 on a short term contract. The Jamboree will be the culmination of the celebrations for Scouting Irelands' Centenary Year and hopefully this flagship event will propel Scouting Ireland into a higher plane of recognition and relevance with not alone the Youth of Ireland but also with adults. The Jamboree also received a Grant of €80,000 from the Minister of Youth Affairs Mr Sean Haughey in December 2007.

Membership Figures

In 2007 the membership of the Association increased by 1%. There has been an increase of less than 1% in adult members and also an increase of 1% in youth members. Details of the increase in membership are outlined in the chart attached to this report. There was anticipation that the membership increase would have been greater due to the formation of some new Scout Groups throughout the country but by years end their registration process had not been completed and the addition of the new groups should be reflected in the Census Figures for 2008.

Conclusion

Overall 2007 has been quite a successful year for the Association, due to the increase in the number of professional support staff in providing enhanced support to the membership, particularly at Provincial level, the achieving of many of the objectives in the 2004 – 2007 Strategy for Scouting Ireland and the imminent formation of a new Strategy for 2008 and beyond. The successful year can also be attributed to the increase in funding from the service grant scheme which is administered by the Department of Education and Science, Youth Affairs

Section of 7.5% and also the securing of a significant once-off grant from the Minister of Youth Affairs Mr Sean Haughey T.D. in the latter part of 2007. Further elements of the successful year was the potential partnership with Cavan County Council to provide a campsite on the Castle Saunderson Estate, albeit on a reduced scale, the increase in the Associations' membership by a modest 1% and finally the completion and installation of the new Web Based membership database in the National Office. All of the above achievements augur well for the Centenary Year of Scouting in 2008 and hopefully these successes are the foundation for success and progress in the Association in future years.

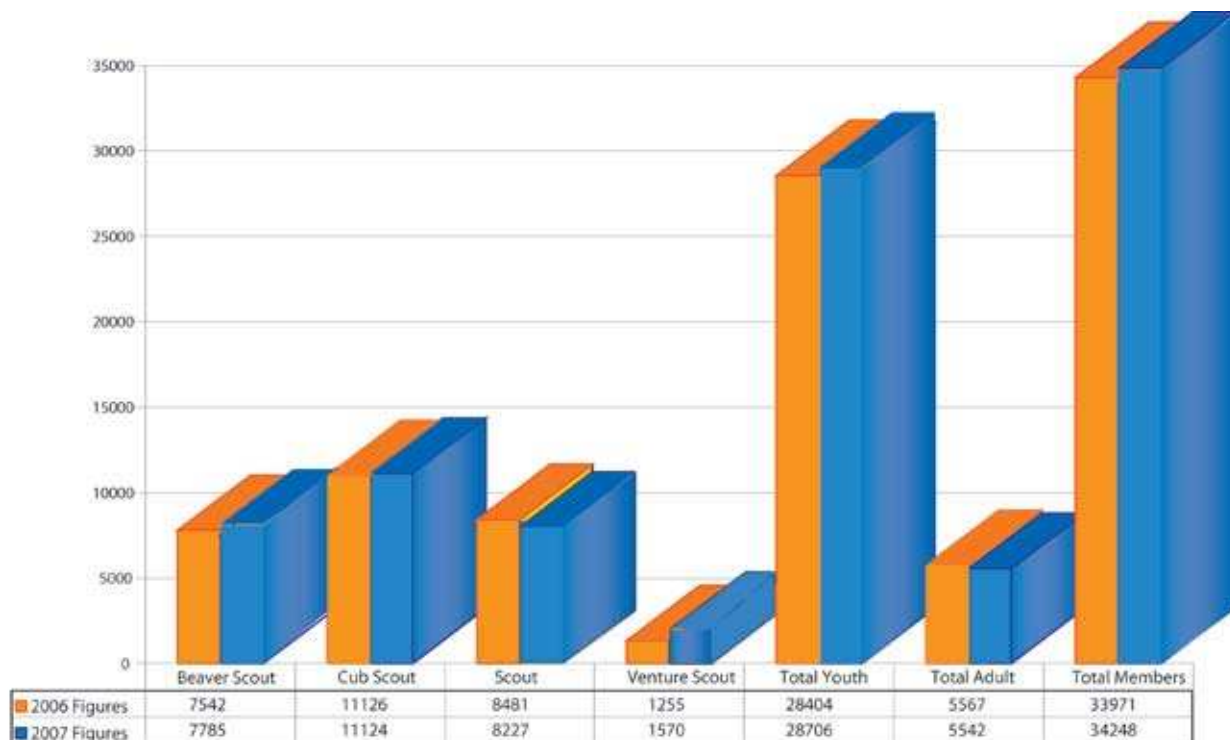
Finally, I wish to put on record my thanks and appreciation to all of the professional staff, both in the Provinces and in Larch Hill, for their support, loyalty and hard work in providing support to the membership of the association.

Eamonn Lynch
CEO





Membership Figures



Province	Beaver Scouts	Cub Scouts	Scouts	Venture Scouts	Total Youth	Scouters	Committee	Direct Reg.	Total Adult	Total members
Dublin Scout Province	1148	2104	2005	548	5805	1071	68		1139	6944
North Eastern	1482	2155	1594	346	5577	905	31		936	6513
Northern	1074	1233	808	115	3230	563	27		590	3820
South Eastern	1641	2351	1703	222	5917	1023	70		1093	7010
Southern	1598	2210	1488	259	5555	931	67		998	6553
Western	842	1071	629	80	2622	511	10		521	3143
Total 2007	7785	11124	8227	1570	28706	5004	273	66	5542*	34248
Total 2006	7542	11126	8481	1255	28404	4885	387	48	5567**	33971
Difference	243	-2	-254	315	302	119	-114	18	-25***	322
Percentage	3.22%	0.02%	-3%	25%	1%	2.4%	-29%	38%	-0.4%	1%

* Please note: the total adult figure includes 199 Scouter applications that are pending.

** Please note: the total adult figure includes 247 Scouter applications that are pending.

*** Please note: the difference in the pending adults between the two years is 48.



SCOUTING IRELAND

Members of National Management Committee

Martin Burbridge, Michael Devins, Brendan McNicholas (completion of term, June 2007), Kiernan Gildea, Niall Walsh, Ann Smithers, Christy McCann (completion of term, June 2007), Noel McCartney, Michael J. Shinnick, Francis Minogue, Garrett Flynn, Ann Foley, Pat Murphy (completion of term, June 2007), Stephen Carey, Paul Falvey (completion of term, June 2007), Pat Roche, Ciara Higgins, Gillian Wharton, John Brennan, Noel O'Connor, Richard Scriven, Jimmy Cunningham, Julie Malone, Pat O'Connor.

National Team for Policy Implementation and Co-ordination

Martin Burbridge Chief Scout, Michael Devins National Secretary, Niall Walsh National Treasurer, Kiernan Gildea Chief Commissioner – Youth Programme, Brendan McNicholas Chief Commissioner – Adult Resources (completion of term, June 2007), Michael John Shinnick Chief Commissioner – Adult Resources, Gillian Wharton Chairperson – National Spiritual Religious Advisory Panel.

Members and Directors of the Scout Foundation and Scout Association of Ireland Trust Corporation Limited (who have held office in 2007)

Joe McLoughlin, Aidan Brennan, John Reid, Mark Doyle, Terry Kiely, (and National Officers ex officio.)

Provincial Commissioners

Ann Smithers, Christy McCann (completion of term, June 2007), Julie Malone, Noel McCartney, Michael J. Shinnick (completion of term, June 2007), Francis Minogue, Jimmy Cunningham, Pat Roche.

Staff

Eamonn Lynch	CEO
Colm Kavanagh	Programme Development Officer Research/Publications
Sean Farrell	SQS, AIS, Provincial and National Co-ordinator, Manager Support Staff effective Dec 2007
Neil Mahony	PR, Information / Communications Officer
Philomena Stapleton	Child Protection Officer / Risk Management
Oladoyin Durojaiye	Legal Governance / Property Administration Officer
Karol Quinn	Programme Development Officer
Canice Curtis	Programme Development Advisor
Gillian Keogh	Programme Development Administrator
James Usher	Warden Manager Larch Hill National Campsite
Bridie O'Sullivan	Administrative Officer
Marie Dalton	Registrar
Margaret Moore Lewey	Administrative Assistant Provincial Support / Insurance
Rose Doyle	Administrative Assistant National Secretary
Grainne Quinn	Receptionist
Damien O'Sullivan	Campsites and Facilities

Group Support Facilitators

Jimmy O'Donnell (part-time)	Southern Province
Ruth Hughes (part-time)	Southern Province
James Fox	North Eastern Province
Niamh Woods	Dublin Scout Province
Daniel Habermann	Western Province
Caroline Healy (part-time)	South Eastern Province
Sinclair Trotter (part-time)	Northern Province
Kevin Ferguson (part-time)	Northern Province
Eithne Davis (part-time)	Northern Province

Finance

Fionan Lawlor	Financial Controller
Barbara Hughes	Accounts assistant

Provincial Support Officers

Neil Collins	Southern Province
Joe Doherty	Western Province
Justin Maher	South Eastern Province
Gerry Hickey	North Eastern Province
Geraldine Smith	Dublin Scout Province

Jamboree 2008

Paul Carey	Camp Manager
Allan Bourke	Assistant Accountant

Scout Foundation Northern Ireland

Mo Treacy	Provincial Administrator
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