

# museum gets sled



by Margot Petersen

## Arch Hoadley – Adventurer will be remembered

In January 2003 The Board of Management of Gilwell Park Victoria had to make a very difficult decision:

Antartic pioneer and explorer, Arch Hoadley's sledge, ski's, ice-pick and stocks have been displayed in the Russell Troop Room for many years.

The fires at Lysterfield and deterioration of these artefacts over the years (the snow shoes have fallen apart years ago) made us look at the problem of preserving them for the future. The cost of restoring the pieces was a very expensive option and one that was not feasible. Therefore the committee decided on the other option of giving them on permanent loan to the Museum of Victoria as they would undertake the restoration needed to preserve the pieces. The artefacts will be held on trust for the Scout Association. It was not an easy decision as these items are an inherent part of Gilwell Park and a visible reminder of a man who did so much for Scouting.

The Museum has been most helpful and when it was suggested that they must know more of "Arch the Man" not just his trip to the South Pole, they agreed that the exhibit would provide more information. Accordingly, a meeting was held with a representative from the Museum and the "Old Boys" from 1<sup>st</sup> Footscray which Arch's Scout Group, when stories about Arch were recorded.

The cost of restoration was beyond the resources of the Victorian Scout Heritage Centre and the Gilwell Board of Management, so it is felt that this was the best way to preserve an important part of our heritage. The Museum will take some months to restore the equipment and set up the display which will be rotated with other displays on show. The Museum



Photo by Leon Costermans

advised that arrangements can be made should a group of Scouting people wish to see the pieces when they are not on display.

So, far from being lost to Scouting, the artefacts have been given to the people of Victoria to view and learn more about a very special man.

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