

Gilwell Park Bushwalking

Scouting History Walk – Eastern Side

The Western Side of Gilwell Park:

In 1924, several Victorian Leaders attended the Wembley Jamboree in England and, afterwards, qualified for their 'Wood Badge' at this camp. Two of the Leaders were so outstanding that they were recommended to be Deputy Camp Chiefs (DCC) - qualified to run similar courses. These were

Mr C.A. (Arch) Hoadley and Mr E.H.C (Tom) Russell.

Mr Hoadley was greatly influenced by his experience at Gilwell (England), where Baden-Powell's foresight had envisaged an area where boys could come to camp as Andrea for the Training of Leaders. Following the Second Woodbadge course run at Gilwell Park, Victoria, in 1926, Mr Hoadley purchased 200 acres of land on Clark and Sheppard Creeks, adjoining the original gift of the training area by the Russell family. Mr Hoadley donated 20 acres on the East side of the Gembrook-Launching Place Rd to increase the size of the training area. The Eastern side of Gilwell Park can be explored using the "Gilwell Park's Scouting History Walk Eastern Side" guide.

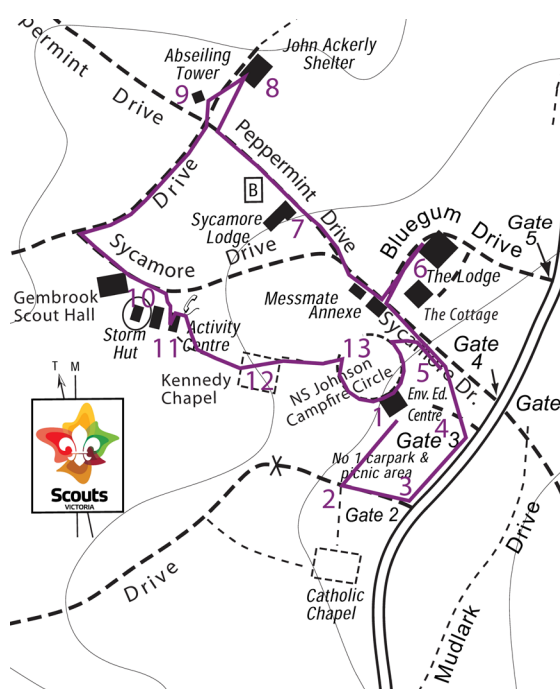
The area purchased by Mr Hoadley was the location of a recently closed-down saw mill known locally as Casey's.

The area West of the Gembrook-Launching Place Rd became known as the "Boy's Field" and has been used for camping and other activities since then. Easter 1929 saw the Cohen Shield competition start at Gilwell Park and resulted in improved camping standards. The four-day Stradbroke Cup camping competitions commenced in 1933, and the tradition continues each year at Easter.

In 1935 the Boy Scout Association recognised the value Boy's Field was providing to Scouting and purchased the property.

This Scout History Trail leads you through developments made over time by many Scouters and takes approximately 40 minutes. Refer to the map below and start from point 1. GPS locations are shown in [Brackets].

The following pages provide information on to the points shown.

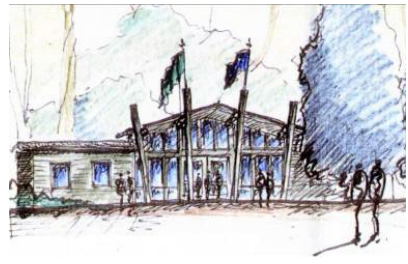


1 - Environment Education Centre (EEC)

[S37°55'05.6" E145°34'18.6"]

The main office for Gilwell Park. Its location serves as the first port of call to all coming to Gilwell Park.

Its other prime function is an Environment Education Centre where displays can be assembled to support different environmental activities being conducted at Gilwell Park. In line with sustainable practices the building comprises two relocated buildings from Jungalow (a closed campsite near Gilwell Park) with the centre area available to set up displays, provide information sessions and support other training activities.



1st Footscray Totem

In front of the EEC is the only remaining carved Totem pole, two of which formed a gateway to 1st Footscray's allocated campsite (campsite C01 off Forest Path). In the early days of the Boy's Field there was some concern whether there were enough cleared sites to accommodate the troops who would enter the Cohen Shield competition.

Mr Hoadley introduced the concept of allocated camp-sites, thus giving Scout Troops the opportunity of clearing and preparing sites for use. As an incentive, many Scout Troops were given pre-emptive rights over them. This practice was discontinued in 1969. See if you can identify the different carvings on the 1st Footscray Totem.



Boy Scout Bronze Statue

Inside the EEC, you can see a Bronze Statue of a Boy Scout. The statue was one of four commissioned by Mornington County and crafted by the well-known sculptor Mr Paul Montfort. This Bronze Statue of a Boy Scout was used in the entrance of the 1935 Frankston Jamboree, and the Hon purchased two. Harold Cohen, who presented this one to Gilwell Park. BP took one back to England. The other one is located at Scouts Victoria's head office.



2 - Catholic Chapel ("Our Lady of the Scouts")

[S37°55'07.2" E145°34'17.1"]

Follow the path into the Catholic Chapel area. Nine ladies from the first Cub Wood Badge Course, held in 1928 raised funds for the Chapel's construction. Miss W Balderson, Lady Cubmaster of 10th Melbourne Cub Pack, gave devoted service to the Chapel providing beautiful hand-worked Altar linen for the Communion service held 13 January 1929. Later Miss Balderson provided Communion vessels to commemorate those ex-Cubs of her 10th Melbourne Pack, who made the supreme sacrifice in the Second World War. They were inscribed "Imps, 10th Melbourne Pack, St Peters, Eastern Hill". Succeeding generations of Gilwellians remember Miss Balderson decorating the Altar with Flowers every Easter and Christmas.



3 - Gateway No.2 Totem poles

[S37°55'07.1" E145°34'18.5"]

These were carved and the first two erected in 2006. See if you can identify what each pole symbolizes and the number of carvings on each pole.



4 - Chernobyl Garden

[S37°55'05.9" E145°34'20.0"]

In 1991 children from Chernobyl (northern Ukraine, which was then part of USSR) joined Victorian Scouts in a fun camp at Gilwell Park. Chernobyl was infamous for the explosion in the nuclear power plant in 1986 that spread radiation over a huge area of Europe and affected people of the immediate area. The children of the Chernobyl affected area greatly enjoyed their activities here at Gilwell Park which included: camping, exploring, challenges of the Gauntlet, the planting of this garden, crafts and other activities. A mural they and Scouts painted is currently housed in the Sycamore building.



5 - The Mockler – Perryman Archway

[S37°55'04.6" E145°34'19.4"]

Is a gift from the then well known English Scout-Leader Brigadier Mockler-Ferryman, who stayed one Easter during the Cohen Shield camping competitions. It was built as an oriental shaped pergola leading to the camp-fire hollow (now called the Norman Johnson Campfire Circle).



6 - Messmate Annex (Bank)

[S37°55'03.2" E145°34'18.9"]

The National Bank and the Association's bankers offered and supervised Gilwell Park erection of this prefabricated building for the first Jamborella (a camp for Scouts and Guides held 1978 ~ 1979). It was partitioned to serve as a bank at one end and a canteen at the other. In recent years it was upgraded to function as an administration centre. The administration function is now being carried out at the Environmental Education Centre.



6 - The Lodge

[S37°55'02.2" E145°34'20.3"]

Built by Mr Hoadley, originally used as a weekend cottage and later as the place where Gilwell Park's Warden would stay. Baden-Powell stayed here during his visits to Gilwell in 1931 and 35. From here BP took a walk to the Training Ground - the path he took has been named as "The Chief's Approach". The Lodge has been renovated a number of times adding amongst recent improvements an enlarged verandah. The Board Room includes many Scouting collectables given over the years.



7. Sycamore (The Hospital)

[S37°55'00.9" E145°34'17.4"]

A number of wooden buildings were constructed in Frankston for the 1935 Jamboree. Sycamore was one of those that was relocated during 1935 to Gilwell Park and became known as the "Hospital". Initial works were carried out by a Caulfield Rover crew formed by St John Ambulance Officer W Fyffe. Later the maintenance was taken over by 9th Footscray, led by GSM Mr E. Hudgson. A Doctor was in residence during Easter and Christmas/New Year periods when camps were at their peak.

Dr W. Balfour Wishart gave over 30 years of service to Scouts at Gilwell Park. Dr John Kennedy is also remembered for similar medical care for over 15 years.



Gilwell Park's Heritage team have set up a historical display in the building, which includes an historical trek cart used to assist with transport and to help with maintenance of this and other structures at Gilwell Park.

8 - John Ackerly Shelter

[S37°55'57.8" E145°34'16.6"]

Constructed by Rovers for the 8th World Rover Moot held in 1991~1992. It was a takeaway food and coffee shop known as "Casterraunt" and staffed by members of Cas Terras Branch of the BP Guild during the Moot.



It's named after John Ackerly ("Achers") who gave great service during his Scouting life (1944 ~ 1991).

Can you identify the Flying Fox activity area on the east side and the High Ropes course on the west side? They were erected in 2012.

9 - Abseiling Tower

[S37°55'58.4" E145°34'14.8"]

Built in honor of Mr Norman J. James (Boss) OBE and 1st Hampton's long association with Gilwell Park, was proposed by 1st Hampton and Sandringham District in 1997 and opened in November 1998. From the 1930s Gilwell Park allowed Troops to manage and maintained their own campsites, this included 1st Hampton. They used these sites for camping, for the Cohen Shield and Stradbroke Cup competitions. The history and success of 1st Hampton owes much to "Boss James" who was active from its beginning in 1914. "Boss" James earned his Woodbadge in 1924 and continued active service into the 1960s.



On the SE corner of this track intersection is a climbing wall erected in 2012.

10 - Storm Hut

[S37°55'02.3.2" E145°34'13.5"]

The provision of this Scout Hall in 1961 made it possible to offer bad-weather shelter for hikers and campers in an emergency. It was named the "Storm Hut" following a suggestion by visiting English trainer John Thurman after a similar named hall in Gilwell England. It has been used as headquarters for Patrol Leader training and many other activities since then.

Inside you can see a painting of BP. The painting was a prop for the 1959's Gang Show and as such is painted on hessian - so please just look as it is fragile. It was copied from a small original painting which is in England.

At the rear of the Storm Hut is a collection of Radio antennas mounted on a tower. The tower was relocated from Eumeralla Scout Park in 2008 and antennae and associated equipment came from Cleve Cole Hut area (Eastern side of Gilwell Park) and Scouts Victoria's SERU unit, and is used on JOTA and other activities.



11 - Patrol Activity Centre

[S37°55'02.6" E145°34'13.6"]

Gilwell Park's Patrol Activity Centre was the brainchild of three attendees at the 12th Australian Jamboree of 1976/77 – Bill Dawson, Jamboree Camp Chief, Denis Robertson, AAC Scouts, Somers Area and Kevin J. Phair ("Fess") Group Leader 2nd Prahran. These monthly camps started in 1978 at Forrest hut and in 1984 this Centre was constructed. The Centre provides all the camping and activity equipment required for the different camps run throughout the year thus enabling Patrols to come only with their food and personal items to enjoy a fun week-end of Scouting. Around the Centre's doorway are etchings, which depict the activities conducted. See if you can identify all the activities.



12 - The Kennedy Chapel

[S37°55'03.8" E145°34'14.8"]

The Kennedy Chapel was constructed by members of the Gilwell Reunion to perpetuate the memory of Mr W. D. Kennedy in the Boys' Field area as it was the welfare of Boys that always was his main concern. This open air chapel can be used for a "Scouts Own" service by Groups, Packs, Troops etc.

Construction commenced in 1971 and was officially open at the Reunion in 1972.



13 - Norman Johnson Campfire Circle

[S37°55'04.7" E145°34'18.6"]

Originally know as Camp-fire Hollow it was one of the first places established in the Boys' Field by Mr Hoadley to support Scouting activities. Over the years there have been a number of improvements made to enable it to cater for larger numbers and for formal presentations. Victorian Scouting's awards are presented each year from the Camp-fire Circle. It was renamed at the 8th World Moot, held at Gilwell Park from 29/12/1990 to 8/1/1991.



Some of Gilwell Park's milestones

January 1926	2 nd Wood Badge Course
1927	1 st Gilwell Park Reunion
Easter 1929	Cohen Shield
Easter 1930	Lone Scout OORDIYALYAL
1931 & 1935	Visit by Baden-Powell
Easter 1933	Stradbroke Cup
1975	Gilveroo
1978	Lithuanian Scouts' World Jamboree
1978	Patrol Activity Camping
1978 ~ 1979	Jamborella One
1990 ~ 1991	8 th World Moot
1991	Chernobyl Camp

1999	1 st Cuboree
1999	JOTA / JOTI
2000	Gilwell Park's Fun Fest
2005	All Sections Continuous Training Course
2010	1st Kangaree

Read "The Story Of Gilwell In Victoria" to discover more on the people who have contributed greatly to the making of Gilwell Park, a great place to come whilst looking after its environment.