



**The Scout Association of Australia
New South Wales Branch
Hunter and Coastal Region**

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| Regional President: | J.E. McNaughton AM | 518 Hunter Street |
| Regional Chairman: | J.F. Snaushall | NEWCASTLE 2300 |
| Regional Commissioner: | A.J. Currie | Telephone (049)29-1760 |
| Regional Secretary: | C.C. Whitford | Facsimile (049) 29-1753 |

17th April 1997

Mr S. Larkins

REDACTED

Dear Steve

I have just received a letter form the Group Leader of the [RE] Stockton Scout Group that contained some disturbing information.

The subject of the letter is your activities at the Stockton Swimming Pool and the subsequent Police involvement.

The Group Leader received a large number of calls from Scouting and Non Scouting parents in the Stockton area that were distraught at the idea of someone approaching their children at the Pool and buying them lollies.

The [RE] Stockton Group Leader had no choice but to report the incident to the Police. The investigating Detective advised the Group Leader 'quote' "that while this was all highly suspicious, it was not unfortunately a chargeable offence and that they could not do much more than keep an eye on him".

This type of publicity as you would well realise is something that we in the Scout Association can well do without. The [RE] Stockton Group are at present running in damage control mode and it may be very difficult for them to get the local community back on side.

I believe that you have been talked to in the part about buying lollies and presents for boys in your Scout Group. As a parent I would be very defensive if someone gave my child lollies. I can fully understand the concerns of the Stockton people.

I am sure that you were acting in good faith in trying to recruit Scouts but unfortunately we cannot recruit in such a manner. One of my responsibilities as Regional Commissioner is improving our public image and I must do what is necessary to keep our good name. I will be writing to the Stockton Group to reassure them that this will be happen again.

My duty is to give you an official warning. If any further incidents occur I would have no choice but to ask you to leave the Movement. This would be done reluctantly because of the years of good work you have put into Scouts, but would have to be done to preserve our good name.

2.

I am also going to take you away from face to face work with Scouts on a regular weekly basis. I feel that if I don't do this, the Stockton people will have no confidence in the Regions' support of their Group. Your new duties will be as a computer liaison officer for the Regional Commissioner Youth Program. You will report directly to Peter Elliott. The Computer Liaison area will be a very large one in the coming years as we get into electronic banking for the Association and onto the Internet and into E-mail. Your services in this area will be valuable.

If you feel that you need to talk to me about this I will be happy to do so, however the getting away from face to face with the Scouts is non negotiable.

Yours in Scouting

Allan Currie

○ Allan Currie
REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

Copy to: Peter Elliott

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THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

New South Wales Branch

Newcastle and Hunter Area

18/4/97

Hilton

With Compliments

Member no:

REDACTED

518 Hunter Street, Newcastle 2300
Telephone: (049) 29 1760
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Steven Andrew
S.S.66

The Regional Commissioner.
per: lev