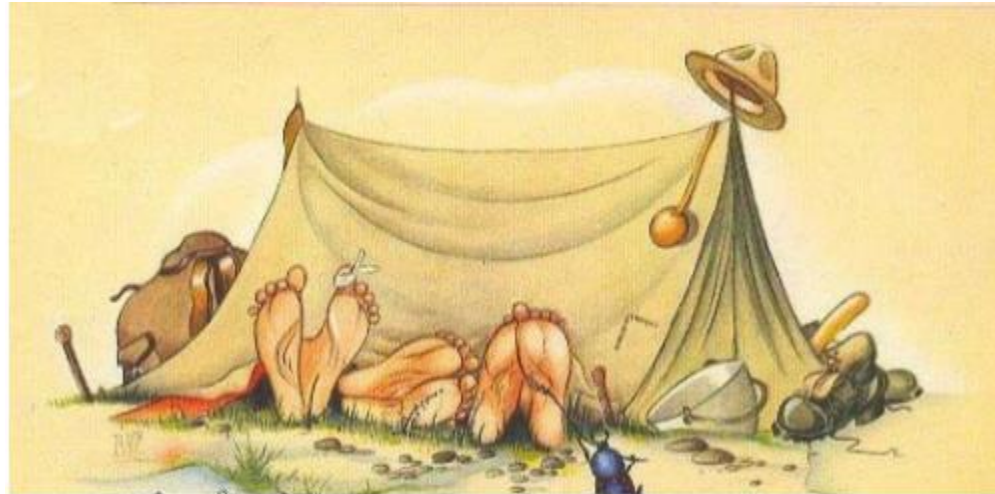


# TENT USAGE IN THE QUEENSLAND SCOUT SECTION



# ISSUE

**The value of the Qld Ridge Tent v the Bell Tent v the Dome Tent**

## CONSULTATION PROCESS

In gathering this information the following personnel were consulted:

Assistant Region Commissioners Scouts; Region Leaders Scouts; District Scout Leaders; Experienced Scout Section Leaders; Current and former Branch Commissioners Scouts; Branch Advisor Scouts; Training Team Leaders and Jamboree Contingent Leaders.

# CONSULTATION PROCESS

The following questions were put to the Leaders. Comments were emailed to the Branch Commissioner Scouts as well as most of those involved in the process. A discussion then took place at the Branch Scouters' Council in October.

- \* Does the Ridge Tent still have a place in our program?
- \* Should Groups raise their own money to buy the Ridge Tents or should they be able to seek financial support to do so?
- \* Should a supply of the Ridge Tents still be kept for tent pitching competitions?
- \* Should the Ridge Tent be the recognised standard and the Bell Tent and the nylon Dome Tents be used for major events only?

# THE QUEENSLAND RIDGE TENT

(Also known historically as a Queenslander or Jamboree Tent)



# THE QUEENSLAND RIDGE TENT

(Discussion Outcomes)

## Positives

- \* Erecting these tents provides an opportunity for the whole patrol to work together. Scouts learn to work as a team. It is beneficial for Patrol bonding and is one of the best sources of training in team work. The erection of the ridge tent is a basic scouting skill.
- \* The Ridge Tent has been a staple of Scouting in Australia for generations. It is a traditional element of our program.
- \* The Ridge Tent still has a place in our program.
- \* The use of these tents is a critical element of the Troop program if we are to continue to deliver good scouting.
- \* Utilises the pioneering skills side of the program.

# THE QUEENSLAND RIDGE TENT

(Discussion Outcomes Continued)

## Positives (Continued)

- \* Ticks many boxes that work with the Aims and Principles of Scouting including:
  - putting into practice technical skills such as square lashings, rolling hitches;
  - how to follow directions;                      - proper selection of gear;
  - understanding some basic building / engineering concepts such as cross sectional bracing to prevent collapse.
- \* Scouts learn the values of hard work as it reinforces the constant conditioning of self reliance.
- \* Scouts appreciate something a whole lot more when they work towards a common end point.



# THE QUEENSLAND RIDGE TENT

(Discussion Outcomes Continued)

## Positives (Continued)

- \* Adventurer Level Campcraft requires scouts to repair tents. This is perfect for the Ridge Tents.
- \* Ridge Tents give a comparable standard to judge at a standards camp.
- \* Can outlast the life of a Dome Tent by many many years.



# THE QUEENSLAND RIDGE TENT

(Discussion Outcomes Continued)

## Negatives

- \* Requires a whole patrol to help erect.
- \* Cost to buy is expensive especially for a new Group.
- \* No safety factor from some animals. (Modern society parent helicopters.)
- \* Not suitable for the Northern areas of the state in the hotter parts of the year due to insects and Dengue Fever. (We have a duty of care.)
- \* Qld Wet Tropics National Parks forbid the digging of storm water trenches on campsites.
- \* Bulkiness and Weight.
- \* Transportation issue of poles.
- \* Much work to source poles for construction.



# DOME TENTS



Initially bought to top up tent supplies for Springfield Jamboree.

# DOMES TENTS

(Discussion Outcomes)

## Positives

- \* Better protection against some animals particularly mozzies. Duty of care and being proactive against Dengue Fever.
- \* Easier to erect than Ridge Tents.
- \* Good for high wind and known windy areas.
- \* Small Domes excellent for hiking.
- \* All Domes take up less room and are lighter.
- \* Cheaper to buy in the initial phase especially for a new Group.





# DOME TENTS

(Discussion Outcomes)

## Negatives

- \* No real skill building opportunities.
- \* Larger ones can be difficult to manage during the erection phase.
- \* Some larger ones can take a long time to erect properly.
- \* Guy ropes often not attached or set out correctly leading to water leakage issues.
- \* Poles easily broken.
- \* Constant repair issues leading to increased costs in the long term.



# BELL TENTS



# BELL TENTS

(Discussion Outcomes)

## Positives

\* Tents originally used at the First Camp at Brownsea Island. This is a traditional Scouting aspect.

\* Quick and easy to erect.



# BELL TENTS

(Discussion Outcomes)

Positives (Continued)



- \* Zip in / out bathtub style groundsheet.
- \* Sewn in mesh door.
- \* Heavy duty ropes, stakes and poles.
- \* Better protection against some animals particularly mozzies. Duty of care and being proactive against Dengue Fever.
- \* Can be put up by one person.
- \* Roll up canvas side walls.
- \* Spring loaded poles for easy set up.
- \* Peace of mind for parents.
- \* Can be hired out for \$60 plus GST.

# BELL TENTS

(Discussion Outcomes)

## Negatives

- \* No real team work required to put these up.
- \* No skill development or ability required to erect these.
- \* No extended leadership opportunity allowed for with these.
- \* Doubtful as to whether these would be incorporated into Scout Section Leader Training.
- \* Mass of all components - 39 kg.

# OTHER POINTS TO COME FROM THIS CONSULTATION PROCESS

\* Why are some Troops not using the Ridge Tents and why don't leaders want to use them?

\* Should the smaller Dome tents only be used for hiking?

\* Should a supply be kept for Scout Section Leader Training?

\* New Groups should first seek unused surplus tentage in their own area where other Groups have shrunk or closed.

**\* Are leaders not confident? Are they too hard for them? Are they too lazy?**

**\* YES.**

\* There should be a process in place to seek financial support and assistance where possible for Ridge Tents. This should be transparent and have justified outcomes.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- \* It was strongly recommended by those consulted that all three types of tents have a place in scouting.
- \* The choice of tent should be dictated by the type of activity and the event organiser.
- \* Yes, Scouting needs to continue to modernise but not at the expense of losing the traditions that Scouting is about.
- \* If we are teaching Scouts knots, pioneering and construction which are all an essential part of their program then why would we take away a traditional discipline such as the opportunity of using Ridge tents?
- \* Ridge Tents should be maintained and used for Patrol Camping, Standards Camps, Leadership Courses and Projects etc.
- \* Dome Tents should be accessed for climate and environmental considerations as well as for hiking.
- \* Bell Tents should be used for Major Events such as Jamboree, Agoonoree, Cuboree etc..

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## For Purchase of Ridge and Bell Tents

- \* Direct Grants from Branch.
- \* Grants from other sources.
- \* Groups apply for a monetary loan.
- \* Groups hire from Branch at Branch Campsites for a weekend training activity.
- \* Groups hire for a month to use as part of their weekly programs.
- \* Groups raise their own money themselves for the purchase and maintenance of tents.

# AND WHAT DOES THE YEAR 2050 LOOK LIKE?



\* We need to make sure that we maintain the whole concept of true outdoor camping in our yearly programs.

