

1<sup>st</sup> Lindfield Scout Group  
13 February 2020

To all at 1<sup>st</sup> Lindfield, congratulations on your centenary anniversary- what a milestone to achieve!

The Paddy Pallin organisation feels indebted to the Scout movement for inspiring so many young people to get outside and explore the world around them. Active, engaged outdoors people have been the foundation our business.

It was the Scout movement that first got our founder 'Paddy' Pallin into camping, he wrote in his memoir *Never Truly Lost* 'my first experience of camping .... was with the Scouts in a field on the edge of the Yorkshire Moors.' After that 'taster' Paddy joined fellow Scoutmasters to hone his outdoor skills and they would go off on pushbikes on weekends and camp where they could.

It was thus that when Paddy arrived in Sydney as a '10 Pound Pom' he again became heavily involved in both the Scout movement (from 1927) and local bushwalking clubs - this was pioneering stuff, and we never cease to be amazed at his passion for the outdoors.

When the depression was in full swing in 1930 Paddy found himself without a job, but not without a dream. He knew that bushwalking clubs in Sydney were beginning to grow, and he wrote that '*their members were severely hampered by the difficulty of obtaining efficient equipment which was compact and light enough to carry on the back. I had done a lot of such camping in England, as a Rover Scout and Scoutmaster, and I had already tried out my English equipment in Australia. In England, not always content with what I could buy, I had made several items to my own design. Could I do this for a living?*'

Well, I think you can all agree that the answer to that question was a resounding yes, and you can see here how the Scout experience was the foundation of Paddy's ability to see what he could offer the bushwalking community. A business that began just as 'mystery hikes' became all the rage in Victoria and then New South Wales. What a time for outdoors people!

It was therefore apt that in 1934, that he wrote and published the classic work *Bushwalking and Camping* in order to share his knowledge. He wrote, '*This book did much to establish me as an authority on the art and equipment of bushwalking*'

And so, it was that the Scouts informed Paddy's early experiences and he then went on to share that love through his now well known and loved chain of outdoor stores.

We are very excited to be sharing a little of our history with 1<sup>st</sup> Lindfield - Paddy's local group, thank you for allowing us to tell our story today, as you celebrate your 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday as a group!

Kindest regards,

Team Paddy Pallin



**"It is the journey that matters not the arrival."**

**Paddy Pallin 1900-1991**