Virtual Urban Hike

This activity – as individuals or Patrols – takes some preparation. But the end result will fruitfully occupy some time, with instruction, the activity, and follow-up discussion.

It also feels like we're outside, rather than stuck at home!

Preparation:

1. Create a map of the local area around your hall.

One way is to screen shot the relevant area in Google Maps, then edit it in Photoshop.
Delete unnecessary details like the names of business.

For example:
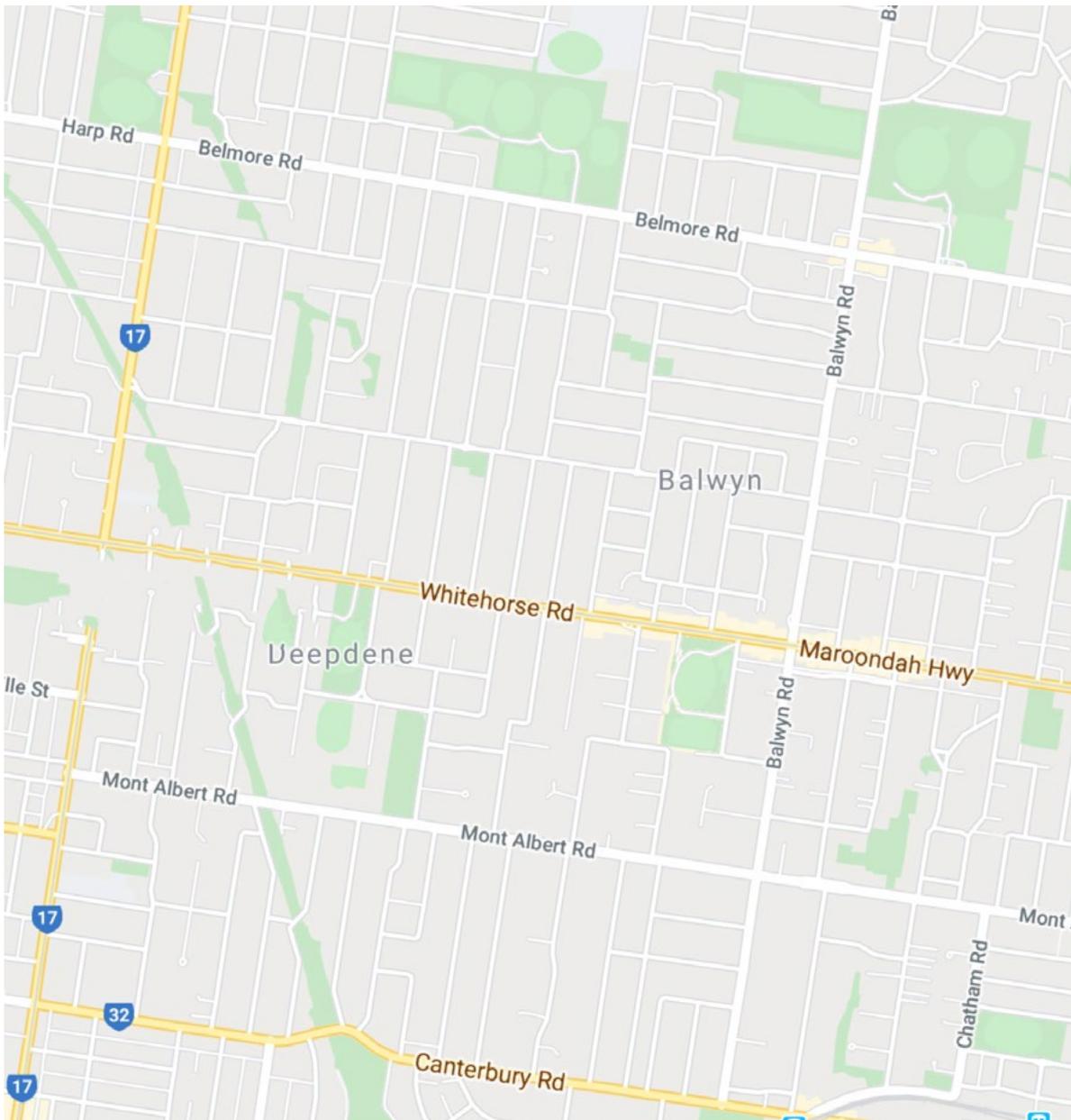
2. Email the blank map to all Scouts.
Each will need to print a copy to write on.

3. Discuss with Patrol Leaders.
Will everyone do the exercise as individuals?
Or – to help the younger Scouts – will they work as Patrols in breakout rooms?
(If so, PLs will need the set of photos to show and share from their screens at the right time.)

4. Plan the urban hike and select locations that some/most Scouts might recognise.

5. Get photographs of these locations – or screenshot them from Street view in Google Maps.
Label them A, B, C, D, E, F... in the order of the hike.
For example:

You'll also need to prepare a single screen showing all photos at the same time. See below.

Also an image of the solution – the photo locations joined by the hike route. See below.

The Meeting

Opening

- Welcome
- Flagbreak (?)
- Roll call – check who's on
- Any news or highlights to share (like birthdays)

A Game

Holiday lotto

Scouts need pen and paper.

Each draws up a 3 x 3 grid, with enough room to write in a few words in each 'square'.

The Leaders call a list of holiday activities.

As each item is called, Scouts write in randomly, one item per 'square'.

A suggested list is:

- Went away
- Visited relatives
- Watched TV
- Read a book
- Made art
- Bike ride
- Played video games
- Cooking
- Had a sleepover

A finished grid might look like this:

Visited relatives	Video games	Went away
Cooking	Sleepover	Read a book
Watched TV	Bike ride	Made art

When the task is completed, and every Scout is ready, the Leader explains:

- The 9 holiday activities will be called out, one at a time.
- When each is called, the Scouts should cross out that square.
- As soon as a Scout gets three in a row – up, down, diagonal – shout out!

The Leader has written the 9 holiday activities on slips of paper and draws one at a time from a hat.

As each is called out, the Scouts crosses each square.

Alternates:

Have a second set of weirder topics and play it again.
Tie-break? Pit the winners against each other with questions like:

- Most famous person you met in the holidays
- Weirdest thing you ate in the holidays
- Something that you did for other people in the holidays

Let the PLs judge the ultimate winner.

Virtual Urban Hike

Instructions:

(As individuals – the whole Troop – or as Patrols in separate breakout rooms.)

Each Scout should have printed a copy of the map. They also need a pen.

Find the Scout hall on the map.
It's the starting point for a virtual urban hike.
Mark the Scout hall as Zero.

Scouts will be shown a series of photos, marked A, B, C etc. Scouts have to identify each location, and mark A, B, C etc on their map. These points will create the hike route, so they will be close to each other.

If Scouts are quick they could jump on Google Maps, go to Street view, and confirm if the photo shows the location they think it is.

Each photo will be shown for 2 minutes. When all photos have been shown, the whole series will be shown as a single screen for 5 minutes or so. For example:
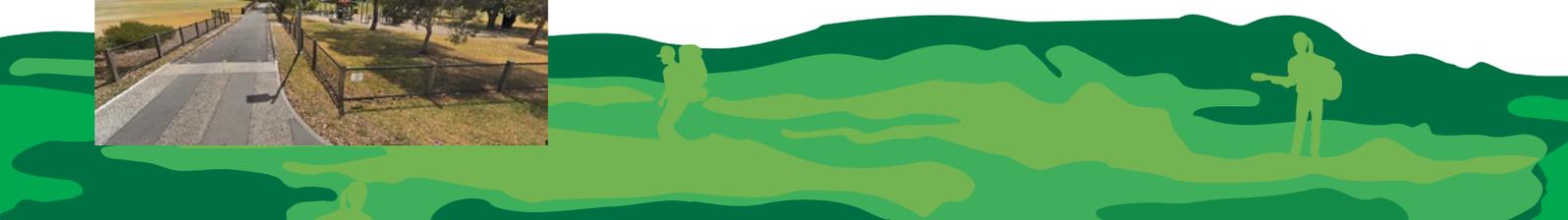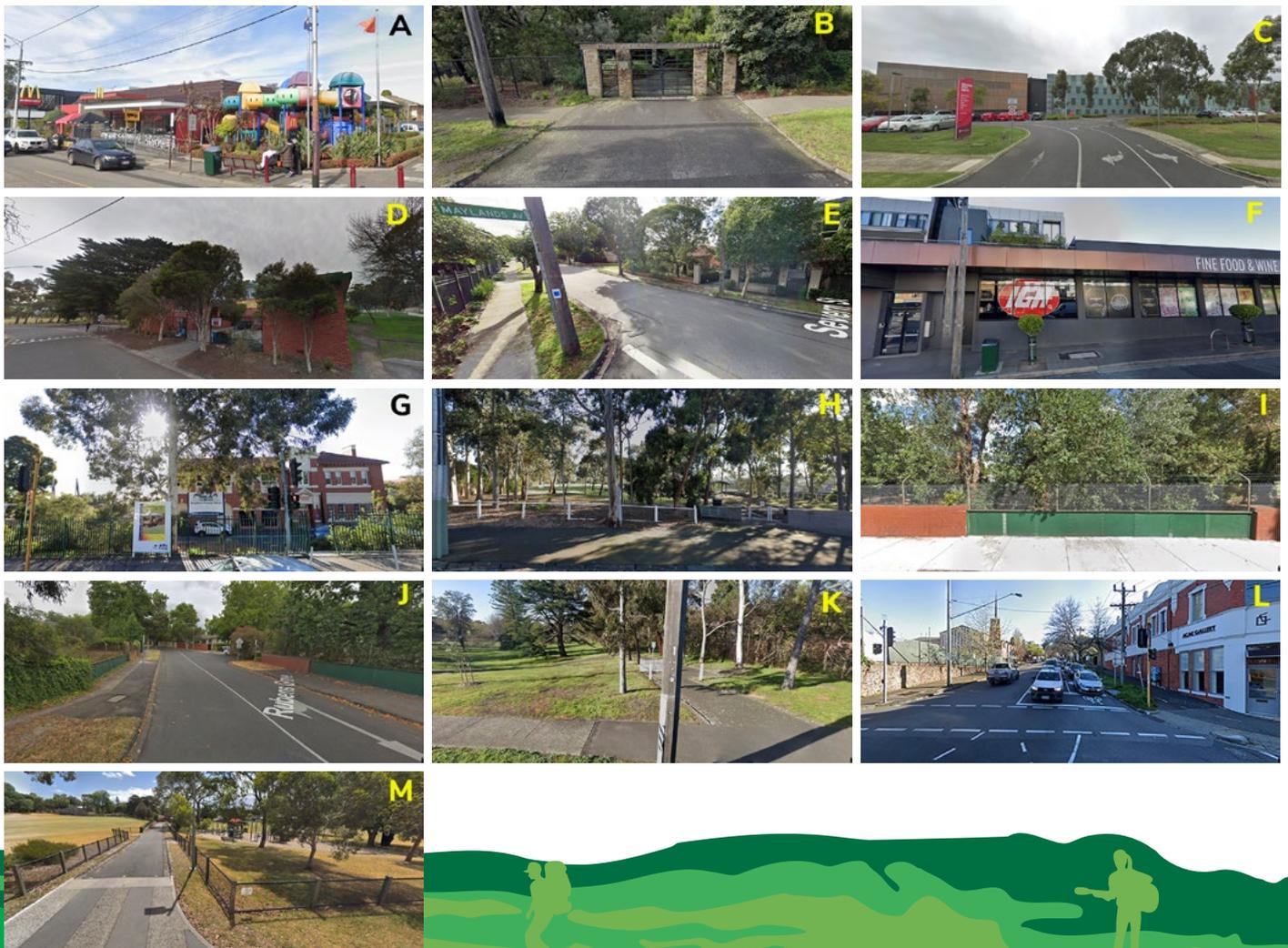
Scouts need to find each point on their map, then connect them with their suggested hike route.

Results

After a reasonable time, Scouts share their maps.
There might be discussion about how people solved this challenge.
Did some race to Google Maps and Street view to confirm any locations?
Finally, it's time to show the actual map of this Virtual Urban Hike.
For example:
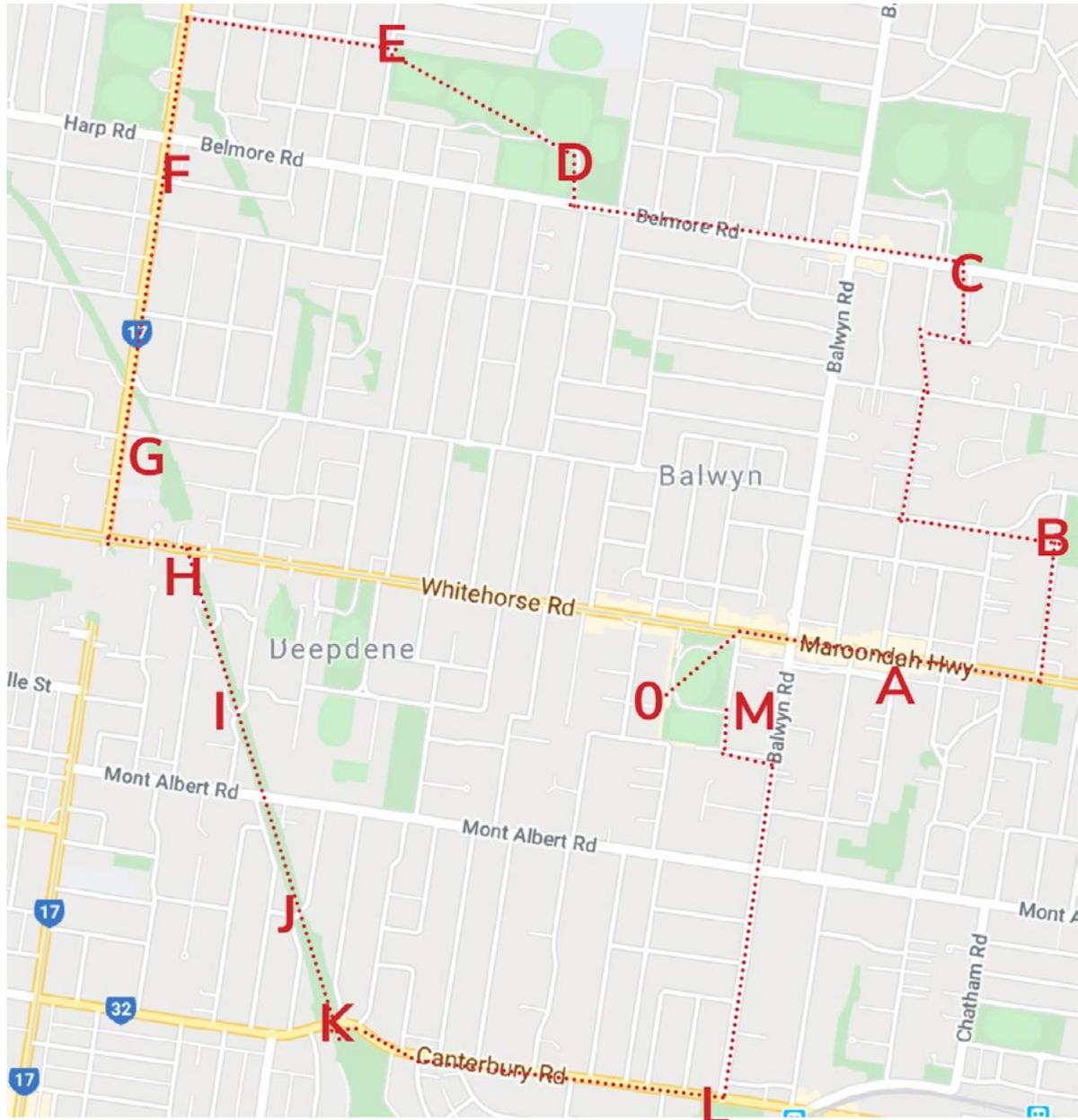
Closing

- Ask the Scouts for their highlights of the meeting
- Winners ...
- Badges presented virtually then mailed with a note
- Investitures (repeated later for real)
- Closing reflection by duty PL
- Flagdown?
- Till next week ...