

The Bulletin

Journal of the Greater Western Sydney Region



The 51st Jamboree on the Air and the 12th Jamboree on the Internet will take place on October 18 and 19, 2008. Make sure your youth members have the opportunity to communicate with fellow scouts around the world when JOTA/JOTI comes to a scout hall near you.

For more information visit

www.scouts.com.au or www.jotajoti.org

No. 360 October 2008

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CENTENARY BLANKET BADGE

Scouts Australia NSW has commissioned a Centenary Blanket Badge for sale to Groups and Team Members. The large 4" x 7" badges are available from the GWSR Office for only \$4 each.

Scouts from Holroyd District 'Scarf Up' the councillors during a meeting of Holroyd City Council.

Photo courtesy of
Ron Brown DC - Holroyd



The Bulletin is edited and published for the general information of members in the Greater Western Sydney Region. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of GWSR or Scouts Australia.

Submissions must be made by the **20th day of the month preceding publication.**

Editor; Anne Thompson anne.dlcs@gmail.com

FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER

Jan Playford



Whilst I believe all Leaders know their Promise and Law and most the Aim and Principles of our great organisation, how many know the Method – the *how we do it?*

I recently attended two occasions where those in attendance were practising our method wonderfully. I was privileged to be asked to judge the Region Cook Off. The three participating teams, 1st Carlingford, 1st Glossodia and 1st Kellyville were a delight to watch. Learning by doing was certainly in practice as was the provision of leadership and responsibility and encouragement of activity in small groups - but what impressed me most was the encouragement of self government.

The teams all worked together to produce a three course meal covering all the five food groups. The leaders must have found it difficult to stand by and let this happen without interfering. However this is what happened and 1st Carlingford were the winners. The team all had their tasks to do, worked harmoniously together, to not only produce a three course meal but to present it in an attractive way. It was wonderful to see our method being used and the rewards by letting the young people get in there and do it themselves reaps great rewards. Not only are the leaders producing self reliant young people, but the parents and the community are benefiting by these fantastic young citizens of tomorrow. The cub scouts worked throughout the awful inclement weather, shivering, some with blue lips but all had smiles on their faces and I am sure went home to tell mum and dad what a great day they had.

I also attended a Scout Medallion presentation for Mitchell Hayes – 1st Nth Rocks and a Queen Scout presentation for Benjamin Scott – 1st Winston Hills, once again to see the work that these young men had put in, was proof of what our method is all about. Both are shining examples to Scouting and the community.

It was also my pleasure to attend 1st Parramatta's 100th birthday celebrations. Congratulations to Liz Sobolewski and her Leaders

and Committee. The hall looked wonderful and the honour board they have installed, naming King Scouts, Queen Scouts, Leaders and Committee from 1908 to 2008 is truly magnificent.

In my role as Region Commissioner, I sometimes get bogged down in the politics of Scouting as well as many other conflicts. It is wonderful to go to these events I have just written about and see true Scouting in action. These events restore my jaded persona and give me the “oomph” to continue on.

By now all members who were eligible, would have received their *Stop the Summer Drop* scarves. I hope you are pleased with them. You may wear them until 31st March 2009. Around 40% of the Region received scarves, so wear them with pride on your achievement.

Project Star is getting closer with the software being trialed and tested. Jan Carter will be having intensive training in October so the office will be closed for a few days whilst this happens. Hopefully in the New Year we will all be using it. Meanwhile, please keep checking the NSW website for all your information and up to date forms. Our own website is coming along and we will posting all important dates and events along with all the good news happening in the Region.

Thought for the month

It doesn't have to be dark for you to reach for the stars – they are always out there waiting to be touched!

Jan Playford



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA WEBSITE

Check out the website for the latest Leader Support Guide #22
Homesickness - What Can I Do to Help?
and all the latest updates to the
O & I Handbook, Policies and Forms.

www.nsw.scouts.com.au

POSSUM'S CORNER

Jan Carter - Region Office

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Thank you for all the good wishes recently when I had to have time off work due to a severe bout of the flu.

GOOD SERVICE AWARDS 2009

In the last Bulletin I did say I would give a few clues on how to recommend someone for a Good Service Award.

The list of eligible Scouters for 2009 awards have been distributed to all District Commissioners.

- You need to ask me for a copy of the person's record so you know what they have done.
- Remember that the recommendations are for service above and beyond their current appointment. If the person has had a previous award you only write about what they have done since that award.
- You then write a citation of about half an A4 page and include the National Recommendation form. available from the Region Office. It is a good idea is to write the citation then fill in the appropriate sections on the National form.
- It is not too early to start as the cut off date is February 2009

CENTENARY SCARVES

Have you Scarfed Up your Community?

I have several hundred Centenary Scarves at the Office, and the year is fast running out. These special scarves are for prominent members who support your group - be it local councilors, Bunnings, Woolworths, shopping centres, in fact anyone who gives a hand. They are not for current uniformed members - however in saying that, there could be a former member or someone on your committee who has gone out of their way to still be of service.

SENIOR FIRST AID COURSES

29th and 30th November

Closing date 17th November Cost \$85

APPOINTMENTS September 2008

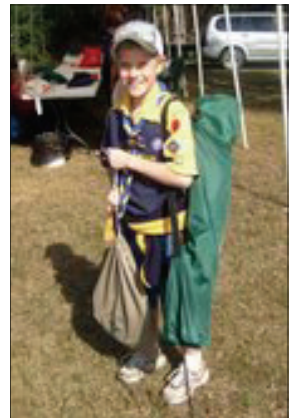
Appointments

BOLLARD, Joanne	AL	1 st Balcombe Heights Group
HOPKINS, Matthew	AL	1 st Hawkesbury Group
LEE Matthew	AL	1 st Blaxland Scout Group
PILLAI Krishnakumar	AL	1 st Carlingford Scout Group
YALLOP Brett	AL	1 st Riverstone Scout Group

Transfers

ASPINALL Michael	Fr AL To ASL	1 st Kellyville Scout Group 1 st Kellyville Scout Troop
LUTZ, Ian	Fr AL To ACSL	1 st Kellyville Scout Group 1 st Kellyville Cub Pack
STAELENS Jean-Pierre	Fr AL To ASL	1 st Balcombe Heights Group 1 st Balcombe Heights Troop
STOCKS, Dianne	Fr Trainee RC To RC Development	GWSR GWSR
WOOD, Robert	Fr VSL To GL	1 st North Mt Druitt Unit 1 st North Mt Druitt Group

Some happy cubs @ 10 yr old camp - Bundilla, 30-31 August 2008



TRAINING TALK

Ann Pounder

Region Commissioner ATD

annpounder@teacher.com



Basic Training

How close are your leaders to finishing? There are many who have completed courses with only their Inservice to go. Who is looking after them? ARE YOU?

It is everyone's role to help the new leader - we are a Scouting family who help each other.

If there are any questions, just ask. Aafke, Terry and I are happy to help you, as is Jan in our Office. The District Leaders and Commissioners plus those running District meetings as well the Region Commissioners for the sections involved can also assist.

Advanced Training

Those leaders who have done Advanced training, how can we assist you to complete your training?

There are quite a few leaders who are very close to being awarded their Wood Beads, in this special Year of the Scout. How about gaining your beads in 2008?

Training Calendar

The 2009 Training Calendar will go out with the December issue of Scouting in NSW. Please note - we are giving you a 15 month calendar. Let us know what you think. In the meantime, I do have the draft for those who need to plan for next year.

Final Interview and paperwork nights

The first Thursday in December will be the final Introductory Interview night for 2008. They will recommence in February 2009.

Final Interviews for the year will occur the 4th Thursday in November **AND THE NEXT WILL BE THE** Fourth Thursday in February 2009!

Hope to see many of you at the Awards Dinner.

Have FUN - Ann

JOEY SCOUT NOTES

Kathy Cuneo

Region Commissioner Joey Scouts

kcuneo@tpg.com.au



At a well attended Wandarrah on Friday night, three new Joey Leaders were invested. Welcome to Jo, Michael and Sean.

The training section of the Wandarrah looked at challenging behaviours in the mob. Leaders were directed to look at Leader Support Guides on this issue (LSG 7 and LSG 11) and a variety of strategies were discussed.

Sandy Knox will add a summary of these strategies to the GWSR Joey's website as a resource for all Leaders.

We were also fortunate to have John Leahy visit to promote his science nights for Joeys. He has developed a number of programs suitable for Joeys.

Planning is well underway for the two Mob holidays. At the end of October 1st Ermington, 1st Winston Hills, 1st North Rocks and 1st Cambridge Park mobs will visit Ingleside Scout Camp. At the end of November 1st Kellyville, 1st Balcombe Heights, 1st Kings Langley, 1st St Marys and 2nd Castle Hill mobs will also visit Ingleside. As Ingleside is now an environment camp we are looking forward to some exciting activities. Mob holidays are a challenge to organise, as each Joey must bring a parent or responsible adult with them.

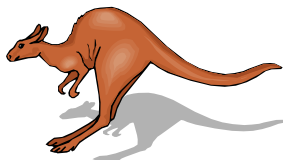
Congratulations to

Bill Freeman - 1st Oakville

Connor Gennari - 1st Oakville

Katrina Hockley - 1st Cambridge Park

*and a big congratulatory **HOP** to these
Joey Scouts for gaining their
Promise Badge*



CUB SCOUT NOTES

Patricia Shaw

Region Commissioner Cub Scouts



Congratulations to the winners of our Region Cub Scout Cook-Off, 1st Carlingford. Despite the rain that did not let up all day the cubs from 1st Glossodia, 1st Kellyville and 1st Carlingford cooked a delicious array of food for the testers. It was great to see the cubs work as a team with minimal adult help. 1st Carlingford will now represent Greater Western Sydney Region in the State Cook-Off in October. Well done to everyone!

Our next Cub Scout Leadership Course will be held on 1st November, 2008. See your District Leader Cub Scouts for an application form.

We have noticed that some packs are having difficulty with their programming - to assist you with this we will conduct a Programming Workshop at Bundilla on 23rd January 2009. We aim to help you with your yearly programme and set you on the way to completing your weekly programmes for Term 1. Please let your DLCS or myself know if you would like to attend.

Don't forget the 'Leaders Challenge' – ask at Seonee for more information.

Congratulations to the following Cub Scouts who have earned their Grey Wolf Award

Ruairi Fleming - 1st Ermington

Joshua Irving - 1st North Rocks

Jason Townley - 1st North Rocks

Andrew Martin - 1st North Rocks

Braden Pollard - 2nd Kings Langley

1 - 2 - 3 WOOF



RADIO, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

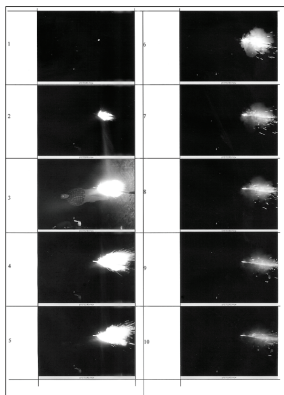
John Leahy

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Making a Flip Book Movie



A flip book is a series of images (from a movie or hand drawn) printed on paper cards and stapled at one end. When the stack of sheets is held stapled end in the left hand, and the right thumb and forefinger used to release the sheets in rapid sequence, the original movie or animation is recreated. The mechanism only requires light to see the images, and the action can be slowed or stopped to view individual pictures.

My digital still camera has a movie mode at 30 frames per second, at reduced resolution. This is useful for investigating things that happen fast, like the launch of a water rocket, closing of a Venus fly trap or the serve stroke in tennis or tee-off in golf. Once you have the movie you can view it on the computer in real time or stop motion. I thought it would be convenient to be able to see the movie at any time, without the computer, by using the old idea of the flip book.

Start by making a template to take the images. I put 10 on a page, which gives a card size of 10.5 x 5.5cm. Leave about 2.5cm at the staple end to allow flexing. Label each box with a sequence number. Open your movie on the computer and move to the first frame you want to use. Click Edit and select Copy. Go to your template and in the first image box do a Paste. Resize to fill the box. Continue on taking each sequential image or every second one if there isn't much change between frames. When you have 20 or 30 images, print them out on medium heavy (210gsm) glossy

printing paper. Cut them into individual cards, grip them altogether in correct order and tap on the right hand side to get all the cards level on that side. Add a couple of blank cards after the last card to give a smooth flip action and glue or staple the left-hand side.

Our eyes are slow to react and insensitive in the dark, so it's interesting to review what happens in the blink of an eyelid. The flip book is a useful mechanism to explore the incomprehensible.

The Digital Camera as a Discovery Tool

You may remember how I described the adaption of a \$15 web cam to fit the objective of a microscope. This made microscopy for groups of Cubs and Scouts easier by displaying the image on a Laptop screen. Additionally, individual images could be saved and printed out.



The modern digital camera is much more versatile (even a sub \$100 one) and in the hands of an inquisitive 10 year old can lead them on a path of discovery and experimentation to produce unbelievable images (both good and gross). Because the picture can be reviewed immediately and the memory card holds many images, there is no restriction to continued inventiveness.

They are not constrained by wastefulness (bad images cost as little as good and can be deleted immediately), or preconceived ideas of the 'right way' to take pictures, because the camera auto exposes and focuses.

If the camera has **Video mode** then the possibilities for discovery are enhanced. Recording the movement of pets - birds fish and cats, or close ups of ants and insects becomes instructive when individual frames can be examined. Slow happenings like the growing of beans or crest, hatching of a chicken egg or setting of the Sun, can be taken a couple of frames at a time with the camera on a tripod.

For the next challenge or badge work you set your Cub or Scout, suggest they record the progress of the activity with the family's digital camera. It may even be an incentive for the parents to purchase a new camera and give the superceded one to their son or daughter!

RATSKIN 2008 by Frank Barr

The annual Ratskin competition was held on the 19th to 20th September in Macquarie Woods State Forest between Bathurst and Orange. Ratskin is designed along the lines of the more famous Dragonskin (Easter Venturer activity) with one notable difference. The activities are organized by Venturers and Leaders enter teams to compete!

This year, the organizing Region was Golden West. Venturers from all over were invited to set up activity bases and GWSR was well represented by 1st Emu Plains (bases 14 and 29) and 1st Kings Langley (bases 11 and 18). GWSR also entered a team made up of Western Zone Venturer Leaders to compete.

We arrived Friday night and were presented with a well prepared set of maps and notes ready for action. Saturday was a full day and we managed to find and complete all 13 bases. Sunday was an early finish (2pm) with 10 bases and less distance between them. Again, we completed all activities with minutes to spare. Our persistence gained us 4th position overall. A very satisfying result considering not one of our team had been to a Ratskin before!

The weather was magnificent all weekend. This added to the enjoyment and full marks to the organising Venturers for putting it all together. The standard was very high and it is a credit to all concerned. The one disappointment was the low number of Leader teams competing. It was a pity that only 11 teams were entered, the preparation deserved more.

The activity is open to all Section Leaders. What about all the Joey, Cub and Scout Leaders lining up for Ratskin 2009? Come along and see the fruits of all your hard work turning into young adults. Like us, you can also have fun while getting close to nature (under tarpaulins, up trees and crawling blindfolded etc).

Congratulations again to all youth members involved, especially 1st Kings Langley and 1st Emu Plains from our own Region.

For further information, contact one of the team members or Frank Barr 4758 6472 or 04 0912 8310



2008 Ratskin Team

Windy Willows

(Photo L to R)

<i>Mr. Toad</i>	Chris Hanson	Oakville
<i>Weasel</i>	Robert McMaster	Oakville
<i>Ratty</i>	Frank Barr	Hazelbrook
<i>Puss</i>	Carol McGarry	Oakville
<i>Badger</i>	Phil Gane	Emu Plains
<i>Mole</i>	Gary Riches	Oakville

**Commissioners Challenge Badge 2008 for
Cub Scout Leaders**

This badge will be issued to all those CS Leaders who meet the requirements as listed on the application form.

The Leaders who earn this badge can then purchase a badge for each cub in their pack for \$2 each.

Application forms are available from your DLCS. Don't forget to include your order and cheque with the application.

Hurry and get your applications in now.

Closing date is November 30th.

'Tricia Shaw
RC Cub Scouts



BUSHWALKING NOTES

Frank Barr GWSR Bushwalking Coordinator

(H) 4758 6472 (M) 04 0912 8310

Email: data_scsi@msn.com.au



GWS Region offers a diverse range of bushwalks. All levels - from Joey day outings to challenging Venturer Expedition 2 level hikes are contained within our boundaries.

This month, I would like to concentrate on the western end that contains walks suitable for all, as well as more of the longer ambitious ones. Virtually, all railway stations west of Emu Plains have walks easily accessible by train. As a Scout Leader in Epping District, I organized several troop day outings to the Blue Mts. The activities started and finished at Parramatta Station where parents were responsible for delivery and pick up to fit in with the train timetable.

Interurban trains run at least every hour. All stop at Parramatta and, off peak, stop at Westmead and Blacktown. Concession fares are only a few dollars. Trains travel direct from Parramatta to Blue Mountains so no changing is required.

First Problem solved (“I can’t organize transport”). As mentioned earlier, many walks are available to and from train stations. For people not familiar with the area, my suggestion is Katoomba. It is central to a number of walks and most activities are geared to walkers and backpackers. It offers magnificent scenery and suitable destinations a few hundred metres from the station. There is also an information centre next to the railway. Suggested outings include:

Joey's: Local parks including Kingsford Smith and Burt Hinkler. Both within easy reach of station. More adventurous could try Katoomba Falls Reserve with great picnic areas and play facilities.

Cubs: Try a round trip taking in Echo Point and Scenic Railway. Many ideal picnic spots along way. More adventurous can add descent of Giant Staircase and Federal Pass under Katoomba Falls. Ascent via Scenic Railway is always a highlight if finances permit. Furber Stairs are available for the more fitness conscious.

Scouts: A good loop walk is to Explorers Tree and down into Megalong Valley via Six Foot Track. The valley can be exited through Devils Hole. This is a little known but excellent alternative coming out on Cliff Drive. A walk across town to the station completes the circuit. Distance is about 13 kms and well within the ability of an average Scout Troop.

The above only scratches the surface of walks available. Please feel free to contact me and discuss options. I am also willing to accompany walks (second problem solved – “I don’t know where to go”) so please give us a call if you need help with a walk.

Next Month: Scout bushwalking qualifications and how to apply.

Australian Scout Medallion Presentation

Jessica Grove - 1st Pendle Hill Scout Troop

and

Eugene Lee - 1st Westmead Scout Troop



On Friday 26th September, both Jessica and Eugene received their Australian Scout Medallions from Phil Crutchley, State Commissioner, Scouts and their badges from Robin Garrett, RC Scouts, GWSR. Parents, relatives, friends, the Holroyd Mayor and local councillors, Leaders and fellow scouts all gathered to celebrate the very special occasion at 1st Westmead Hall.

BRAVO

Jessica and Eugene receiving their Medallions from Phil Crutchley (above) and making their speeches and preparing to cut the cake (right)



ROCK RELATED ACTIVITIES

Rick Jamieson Region RRA Co-ordinator

Phone: 4572 1321

Email: r.jamieson@eftel.net.au



The 2009 Programme should now be on our website.

Coming Activities:

Abseil (Rockcraft) Course: Tue 28th Oct (theory) and 1st and 2nd Nov (practical)

Caving Course: Tue 21st Oct (theory) and 25th and 26th October (practical at Bungonia).

Caving Trip: Sat 22nd Nov and Sun 23rd Nov at Wyambene. Some experience required. Contact Carey Barlow to arrange National Parks permit.

Rescue (Recovery) Course: Sunday 9th November

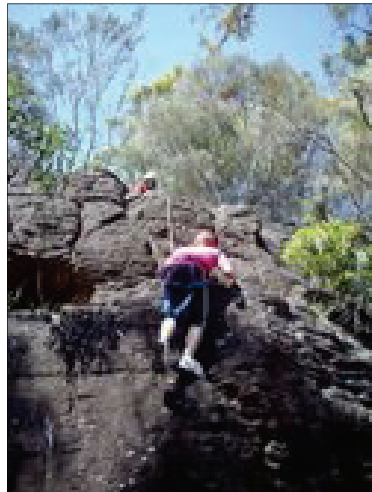
Canyon Trip: Sun 7th Dec to River Caves Canyon and Deep Pass Canyon. An easy trip suitable for Scouts - no abseils/swims.

Applications (on the Rock Activity Form) should be sent to the Region Office (phone 9639 2488) two weeks before the course. Two-day and three-day courses cost \$20, one-day trips \$10, Scout Proficiency Badge course \$5.

See our website:

www.beprepared.com.au/gws

*1st Westmead Scouts on the
Top-Rope Climbing Course
Wahroonga, September 2008*



REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM

Keith Travers Activity Commissioner

9632-3341

kctrav@internode.on.net



There are two new policies for Rock and Water - check them on the scout website under Policies.

ROCK

- New requirements and qualifications for Horizontal caving and canyoning in basic rock skills
- Abseil height for scouts now 20 metres
- Joey Scouts may participate in abseil activities, but **MUST** be belayed by an instructor and wear a full body harness or a chest harness connected to the waist harness, provided the angle of incline from the horizontal does not exceed 70o and distance does not exceed 4 metres. Must be accompanied by an activity leader on an adjacent rope - supervision ratio does not exceed 1:1
- Activities involving belaying e.g. crate stacking, the minimum requirement is an Abseil Instructor

WATER POLICY

- New level called **Basic Water Safety Activity**
- The policy has been changed in all departments - major update for white water, LEVEL 3 conditions changed, night canoeing guidelines, sailing and power boat requirements changed, appointment of instructors under this policy have new training guidelines, Navigation has been added - Level 3 will need to describe cardinal marks, Plan a flat-water expedition, develop a risk assessment, produce a logbook with at least 20 hrs in addition to the hours gained in completing Level 2 and detail problems when canoeing at night.

Please contact Keith Travers by email or phone if your have any questions.

Coming Events

- November is booked out for canoe courses!
- **Sailing Course** - Christmas holidays 17th to 21st December
Closing date; 10th December.
- Power Boat Accreditation Course (Level 2) for people who already hold a power boat licence with NSW Maritime. This is an accreditation for those who want to take scouts in power boats. (Any person who owns a power boat and wants to carry scouts MUST be accredited to Level 20. There will be a short quiz followed by short run in the boat. Safety will be paramount. Those wishing to participate will need to register with **Region Office by 27th October**. Cost \$10pp. Course date will be Sunday 2nd November **OR** Sunday 8th November. Course will start at 8.30am at Kissing Point Park, Putney.
- **FUN DAY ON THE WATER** 14th December at Chipping Norton Lake. **Closing date 1st December**. Register at Region Office - \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Lucky door prize is a white water canoe! There will be canoe races and Certificates for the winners.

Family Fun Day on the water at Chipping Norton Lakes 14th December 2008

A fitting celebration to conclude the Year of the Scout.

However we need some help!

- Groups to run food stalls (1st Ermington have started with sausage and drinks).
- Leaders to run games for Joeys and Cubs.
- Qualified people to run canoe and sailing boats.
- People to tow and return boats on trailers to Blacktown.
- People with power boats to control races.

**For further enquiries or to offer your assistance please call
KEITH TRAVERS on 9632 3341 or
email; kctrav@internode.on.net
as soon as possible. Thank you.**



2009 CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW 40TH ANNIVERSARY AUDITIONS

Cumberland Gang Show is an action packed musical theatre comedy for all the family. It allows you to display your talents to the world in a professional theatre. It doesn't matter if you think you're not the greatest singer, actor or dancer – that's ok, we will teach you everything you need to know.

We put on one of Sydney's biggest annual variety spectacles, but our main aim is to train young (and not so young) people in the performing arts as well as all the technical areas. Rehearsals are held most Saturday nights from March until July 2009 (with more rehearsals closer to the performances) and 10 performances in the July school holidays at Parramatta Riverside Theatre. 2009 promises to be a fantastic season as it is our 40th Anniversary and we intend to celebrate.

You need to be an active member of Scouts Australia or Guides Australia and be aged at least 10 in July 2009; we also welcome adults into our cast.

Auditions will be held on **Saturday 6 December 2009** at Pennant Hills Scout Camp, Pomona Street, Pennant Hills. Please ring for details or an application form on **9636 7730** or register on line at **www.gangshow.asn.au**

**GIVE IT A GO - IT'S GREAT FUN AND YOU WILL MAKE
LOTS OF LIFELONG FRIENDS**



WORKING BEE AT BUNDILLA SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER

Please come and help us do some urgently needed grounds and building maintenance from 9am to 12pm. Wear your old clothes, bring a pair of gloves and some morning tea. Even if you can only spare an hour it will be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you - The Bundy Club

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