

The Bulletin

Journal of the Greater Western Sydney Region



Visit our new website
www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

No. 361 November 2008



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 GWSR Office for only \$4 each.

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SCOUTS AUSTRALIA WEBSITE

Check out the website for the latest
Leader Support Guide # 36
Smoking and Alcohol Policy
and all the latest updates to the
O & I Handbook, Policies and Forms

www.nsw.scouts.com.au

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



Our celebration dinner was a very successful night. We had 140 guests attend and the feedback has been very positive.

On that night we had the launch of our website. Matt Thompson has done a great job and the site is looking great. Matt will be posting articles of interest as well as calendar dates, courses etc. Please log on and have a look. Matt is open to suggestions, so please send him your comments and any articles you would like posted. Whilst Matt will endeavour to have correct information on the site there are times when things may have changed from the time of posting. If you are booking for a Region run activity course you will receive an email or letter mailed to you confirming your attendance, times and any other information relevant to the course. If you don't receive this you need to check with the Region Office. Occasionally venues or times may change, or the course may even be cancelled. Please don't assume you have a place and just turn up. The onus is on you to check.

Thank you to the people who turned up to the Bundy Club working bee - Col Nicholas, Frank Barr, Geoff McGrath, Anne Thompson and Barry Playford. We undertook some repairs around the camp site. The caretakers are taking care of the grounds so we can now concentrate on maintenance jobs.

I attended the Centenary camp at the showground and would like to thank the Leaders from this Region who attended. Whilst numbers were not great the people I spoke to were having an enjoyable time.

We are now on the downhill run to Christmas. At the time of writing the membership fees for 2009 had not been set. As soon as I know, I will get the information out so you can let your parents know what to expect. Project Star – no news to hand.

Thought for the month

The art of life lies in a constant readjustment to our surroundings.

Kakuzo Okakura



POSSUM'S CORNER

Jan Carter - Region Office

Phone: 9639 2488 Fax: 9686 2510

Email: gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au



Where has the last ten months of 2008 gone, time has just flown by, or is it just me?

I can't believe that we are reminding all Group Leaders/Managers and Leaders in Charge to start preparing for 2009.

Here's some good advice;

- Talk to your treasurers about getting the cash books in order and ready to send to the auditors. Group cash books close off on December 31st, 2008.
- Remind your treasurers that they should start preparing invoices for membership fees early in the New Year.
- Start NOW, by advising your parents that there will be invoices early in 2009 and that they should be prepared to pay the Group by the due date.
- GL's/GM's/LIC's should also be vigilant in checking their Group CMR and keeping it up to date and accurate (this will avoid any disputes over Group numbers) and you will receive the correct Membership Invoices in April 2009.
- If you need help please do not hesitate to ask.

Mystery Safety Audit

A group has very kindly sent me a completed Safety Audit Recommendation Form with all the items listed as complete or will be soon. Alas there was no group on it! At each item completed it had "Done" and some initials. At Item 9 it states "Remove pest control poison Gammoxane from first aid kit and store in accordance with local, state and Commonwealth regulations".

Hope that gives a bit of a clue. I will keep the form with others until I hear from the group who owns the form.

APPOINTMENTS OCTOBER 2008

APPOINTMENTS

CHIN, Richard	AL	1 st Blaxland Group
YALLOP, Brett	AL	1 st Riverstone Group

TRANSFERS

CAHILL, Melissa	Fr AL	1 st Kings Langley Group
	To ACSL	1 st Kings Langley Pack
MORT, David	Fr SL	1 st Carlingford Troop
	To VSL	1 st Carlingford Unit
POWER, Teresa	Fr ASL	1 st Carlingford Troop
	To AVSL	1 st Carlingford Unit
ROSE, Greg	Fr SL	Guildford Troop
	To ASL	3 rd Merrylands Troop
ROSS Graham	Fr AVSL	1 st Penrith Unit
	To SL	1 st Penrith Troop
SMITH, David	Fr ASL	Guildford Troop
	To ASL	3 rd Merrylands Troop
TREMAINE Michael	Fr AL	1 st Carlingford Group
	To SL	1 st Carlingford Troop
TUNICA, Nicolette	Fr AJSL	1 st Blaxland Mob
	To CSL	1 st Blaxland Pack

RESIGNATIONS

WEST Gordon	1 st Hawkesbury Group
YOUNG, Helen	1 st Grose Vale Pack

REGISTRATIONS

1st Carlingford Venturer Unit

TRAINING TALK

Ann Pounder

Region Commissioner ATD

annpounder@teacher.com



Not long before 2009 is upon us! How is the Group going with Leaders finishing their Basic and Advanced training?

I really do need those on our current system to complete asap .

We go through something like 200 kits a year. Not all these people are going to stay Associate Leaders so we need your help to assist these people to get to our nights to complete training and be more beneficial to the Group the last night is the 4th Thursday in November before we go into recess until February 2009.

Cost of Courses 2009

Basic	\$125
Advanced	\$130
Distance Learning	\$80 (CBL3 Resources Book included) (SBL3 Field Book included)
RPL	\$80
Assessing trainees	\$45

Training the Trainers courses have been bought into line with National and the following applies

TT1	\$45 1day
TT2,3	\$100
TT4	\$45 1 day (PLA)
TT5,6	\$100 (old TT4)

TT1 will be a mandatory qualification for Activity Leaders .

Training Team Conference

For those team members who have not read their emails or the email went astray - the conference is now on the 31st January and 1st February 2009.

Some early course dates for 2009 to assist with your planning

Basic Leadership 1	462 09 001	14 & 15 Feb
Mt Keira	Apply South Coast & Tablelands	
Basic Leadership 1	462 09 002	28 Feb & 1 Mar
Pennant Hills	Apply Sydney North	
Basic Leadership 1	462 09 003	28 Feb & 1 Mar
Kamilaroi	Apply North West	
Basic Leadership 1	462 09 004	4,11 & 21 Mar
Chatswood	Apply Sydney North	
Basic Leadership 1	462 09 005	7 & 8 Mar
Glenrock	Apply Hunter & Coastal	
Basic Leadership 1	462 09 006	7 & 8 Mar
Camp Kurrajong	Apply Riverina	
Basic Leadership	462 09 007	14 & 15 Mar
Glenreagh	Apply North Coast	
Basic Leadership 1	462 09 008	27 & 28 Mar
Pennant Hills	Apply Sydney North	

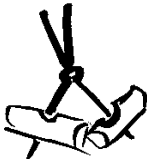
All BL1 courses cost \$125.00

Later courses will be advertised in the State Training Calendar.

Congratulations and very best wishes to

Mark Blades JSL
1st Pendle Hill Joey Mob

who was recently gained his Wood Badge



HOP, HOP, HOP
Well Done

JOEY SCOUT NOTES

Kathy Cuneo

Region Commissioner Joey Scouts

kcuneo@tpg.com.au



Joey Scouts Go Bush.

On the weekend of the 25th and 26th October, 36 Joey Scouts, each with a parent, attended a Mob holiday at Ingleside Environment Scout Camp. The Joey scouts enjoyed a wide range of activities including bush craft, tree planting, water analysis in a nearby creek and lots of bush walking and observation.

They looked at worms and snails and did some animal tracking. As the bush area around Mona Vale has different plant and animal species from those in the Parramatta area it was an interesting experience for all. Many of the bush activities were led by the camp warden, Rick, and he was a font of knowledge.



Thank you to the Leaders for making this such a successful promotion of Scouting for Joey Scouts, particularly our 'honorary' Joey Leaders, Lindsay and Grant from Winston Hills and Jeff from Cambridge Park.

Photos courtesy of Sandy Knox



CUB SCOUT NOTES

Patricia Shaw

Region Commissioner Cub Scouts



Well done to 1st Carlingford who represented us so well at the State Centenary Cook-Off. The competition was of a very high standard with the six preparing a three course meal in a camp kitchen. The judges had a hard time separating the sixes and eventually 1st Wingham came out on top. 1st Carlingford cooked up a storm and were worthy representatives for Greater Western Sydney.

Don't forget to complete your **Leader's Challenge** Form – ask at your Seeonee for more information and receive this special badge for 2008.

Some dates for your 2009 Diary

January 23	Programming Workshop
April 4	Cub Scout Leadership Course
May 1	Palanee
June 7	Cub Day @ Jamborette
August 8	Palaver
August 29 & 30	Cub Baanya (10year Old Camp)
September 19	Cub Scout Leadership Course



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

Tegan Ihnativ - 1st/2nd Merrylands
Brendon Lewis - 1st/2nd Merrylands
Andrew Cameron - 1st/2nd Merrylands
Daniel de Angelis - 1st/2nd Merrylands
Naomi Hudson-Swan - 1st Balcombe Heights
James McKenzie - 1st Pendle Hill

1 - 2 - 3 WOOF

RADIO, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

John Leahy

(H) 4572 1549 (W) 8467 3592

john.leahy@measurement.gov.au



Winston Hills JOTI

Ian Shield reported another good turn out with 91 visitors who contacted 32 countries. A lot of effort goes into connecting all those computers, and keeping them going on the weekend, I'm sure it's appreciated by those Scouts who experience the international flavour that is JOTI.

Guilford/3rd Merrylands JOTA/JOTI

Bob Mathews reports that they were visited by 63 youth members over the weekend. Their radio operator was a young Foundation Licence Scout, whom I had met at the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio club the meeting before JOTA. There were also 8 computers for JOTI contacts, and two tables of activities, including codes, set up by Holroyd Seonee. A telegraph of two keys was set up for those Scouts who wanted to sharpen their Morse Code skills.

Bowen Mountain JOTA

Penrith District took their JOTA weekend back to Bowen Mountain, a great site for radio reception, with good weather for camping. Karl Humphries was there with his mobile antenna tower and lots of new equipment. He was helped out by Alf and Richard from the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club, who bought their own radio



equipment and camped in the park for the weekend. As well as the three radio tables, other bases included 'Electrical First Aid' and 'Treasure Hunt'



using a metal detector. Emu Plains Venturers supplied two bases of bush walks with compass work, one for Cubs and a longer walk for Scouts. The Venturers were able to camp separately from the Scouts, thanks to the generosity of a resident allowing them to use his property to access the fire trail.

There was plenty of good food served up to the 50 Scouts by Jay Jay and his team of ready helpers, so everyone was well fed.

Saturday evening we walked up the street to the Crago Observatory where we viewed Jupiter through the big reflector telescope. The members of the Astronomical Society of New South Wales opened the observatory for us, and also set up two smaller telescopes outside, so everyone had a good look at the heavens, complete with expert commentary. While we were at the observatory, we saw the bright light of the International Space Station race across the sky, a reasonably rare occurrence. But there's more; as we watched the ISS hurtle across the night sky, a fiery comet streaked down and appeared to cut across its trail - WOW!

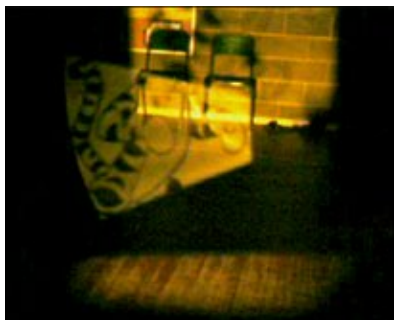
Returning to the park, the Venturers had a campfire going. After supper two venturers were invested and a major service award of the **Silver Wattle** was presented to Peter Craft by Ivan Finch. But the drama of the evening was just beginning. To find out what happened next you'll have to ask someone who was there!

Light Night with 1st Blaxland Cubs

It's difficult to show you what we do on a Light Night because we do the whole night in the dark. Any pictures with flash don't show the effects we are demonstrating, which are clear in the dark.

An example of this is the Virtual Image. A black & white slide of an image known to the Cubs (in this case Tiga), is projected into the middle of the hall but not onto a screen. Karl then stands two meters in front of the projector and waves a plastic tube or stick, about 18mm diameter, up & down at right angles to the light beam. The projected image is reflected as a strip of light off the stick, and if it is moving fast enough, the complete image is recognised.

The flash picture shows Karl waving the stick. The darker image is a frame from a movie and we are looking from the other side, where Karl is standing on the right. It shows the image is formed in midair, and we see it with a little help from the 'persistence of vision' of our eyes.





1ST BLAXLAND GROUP BIKE RIDE
17 AUGUST 2008
Ken Brodrick (Kooleen) SL

The concept started last year and was such a success that it was decided to do give it another go. The idea is for the older sections to ride the Woodford to Glenbrook fire trail, the cubs would start at the Ranger Station and ride up the trail to meet us at the Red Hands Cave turnoff, and we would ride with them to Euroka to meet the Joeys and the committee. The Joeys would have a bushwalk and the committee would (happily?) put on a BBQ.

The Scouts, Venturers and Rovers met at the hall and parents with cars and trailers got us to the start of the fire trail. This had been recently graded, apart from a couple of sections which we'll discuss later.

After I gave a safety talk about rocks, speed, racing and following each other too closely (which was totally ignored, especially the part about speed) the groups set off. The first rest spot was the top of Western ridge which has a rather large uphill leading to it. I was first to get there because I'm the best rider in the scout troop (Ha Ha Ben, Ryan and Jack).



Once everyone was rested up we continued on with photo opportunities and spots to regroup before a morning tea stop at the top of the range. Here I gave another talk about Suicide Hill which was fast approaching. If Jesse might remember, the instructions were to ride this on the left hand side or walk down it. I rode ahead and positioned myself halfway down to take a movie of the group riding down.

I got permission from the parents concerned to put this movie on YOU TUBE and it can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyqzVFgn9I4> This is great viewing. Thanks to the scouts

and parents concerned. You can also go to You Tube and search for Suicide Hill.

We continued on down the trail (the 5 km down hill was enjoyed by all) and met the cubs at the Oaks and all had a lot of fun on the single track, which included the Rock Garden and the Chute for fun.



Before heading down Bennett Ridge and into Euroka, where the Joey's had just finished their walk and the committee had the steaks and snags waiting.



A big thank you to all who helped, including the parents who arrived with trailers and gave lifts to Woodford. Thanks also to the Venturers who helped with the scouts on some of the sections.

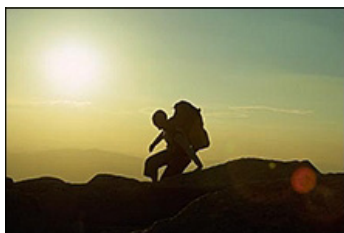
Next year, we are going to extend it, and the Rovers and Venturers will include the Anderson Fire trail the day before and camp at Murphy's Glen before riding the trail.

See ya in the bush! ***Kooleen.***

THE TONY BALTHASAR JAMBOREE FUND

- Has money available to help scouts to attend **AJ2010** at Cataract Scout Park during January 2010.
- Scout members who have sufficient funds to pay the deposit and who think they may qualify for assistance from the **TBJF** should obtain an application kit from your Region or State Office.
- Completed applications must arrive at State H.Q. no later than **5.00PM** on **Friday 27th February 2009**.
- No late applications will be considered.

Col Nicholas, Chairman - Tony Balthasar Jamboree Fund



SCOUTS WITH ALTITUDE

Summer Alpine Camp

The Alpine Activity Centre is offering a new and exciting opportunity for Cubs and Scouts during January 2009!

Please note that this experience is for individuals. The Scouts with Altitude experience will be fully supervised by Scout Leaders.

Want to go to the top of Australia? Why not book in to experience the newest camp opportunity offered at the Alpine Centre at Jindabyne in January 2009.

Scouts with Altitude - a five day all inclusive experience, for only \$550.00, offers Cubs and Scouts a chance to experience fun activities during their summer break, including sailing and boating, and a climb to the top of Mt. Kosciuszko!

For more information and for applications, please check out the website; www.nsw.scouts.com.au

Closing Date is Friday December 19, 2008



REGION FAMILY FUN DAY ON THE WATER

Lake Chipping Norton, December 14, 2008

Come and cool off with some fun on the water.

Canoeing, sailing, power boating with qualified instructors

Bring your own craft and PFD's, or use ours

Take part in a race or cheer from the beach.

Only \$5 per person or \$10 per family

Lucky door prize - a Kayak

Register at Region Office before 1st December

BUSHWALKING NOTES

Frank Barr GWSR Bushwalking Coordinator

(H) 4758 6472 (M) 04 0912 8310

Email: data_scsi@msn.com.au



There have been many changes to Scouting rules and regulations over the past few years and bushwalking is no exception. Once upon a time, no special qualifications were required to lead or participate in day or overnight bushwalks, then in November 2000, a Bushwalking Policy was released. The current version is available on the Scouts Australia website via the following link: http://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/uploads/documents/Policies/oiHandbook/BUSHWALKING_POLICY.pdf

The eight page document is recommended reading for all involved in bushwalking within Scouting. Briefly, the policy allows for two levels of qualifications:

1. Preliminary Bushwalking Leader Qualification
2. Bushwalking Leader Qualification

Within each level, the award can be made to both youth (Scouts and Venturers) and adult members. The main differences between youth and adult levels involve party size. Briefly, the preliminary level allows for walks **UP TO** 30 kilometres over 2 days and the leader level **UP TO** 60 kilometres over 4 days.

To obtain the qualification, a log of prior experience is required. As a minimum, logs need to contain details of when, where and with whom the walk took place, and details of individual responsibilities, phases of the walk and useful comments. A simple list using columns or spreadsheets is fine. Also include appointment, registration number and mailing details for certificate. Logs can be emailed to my address above. If in doubt about the level you qualify for, simply submit your log for assessment.

All participants are encouraged to read the policy and become familiar with the rules and restrictions.

Next month:

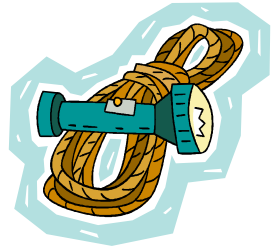
What we are NOT allowed to do under the policy.

ROCK RELATED ACTIVITIES

Rick Jamieson Region RRA Co-ordinator

Phone: 4572 1321

Email: r.jamieson@eftel.net.au



Coming Activities

Abseil (Rockcraft) Course:

Tue 10th February (theory) and 14th and 15th Feb (practical)

Caving Trip:

Sat 28th Feb and Sun 1st March Location to be determined.

Canyon Trips:

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

Sun. 4th Feb. to Birrabang Canyon. An easy trip suitable for Scouts - no abseils or swims.

Canyon Course:

Sat 7th and Sun 8th March. Juggler and Grand Canyons on the Saturday, Serendipity on the Sunday. Camp out at Mt. Wilson. (Abseiling experience required.)

Applications (on the Rock Activity Form) should be sent to the Region Office two weeks before the course.

Two-day and three-day courses cost \$20, one-day trips \$10, Scout Proficiency Badge courses \$5.

See our website for the 2009 Program

www.beprepared.com.au/gws

Leaders and Scouts in River Caves Canyon on a recent GWSR trip.



REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM

Keith Travers Activity Commissioner

9632-3341

kctrav@internode.on.net



Hello everyone.

We are inundated with course applications for water activities. All the dates are full, except for a sailing course.

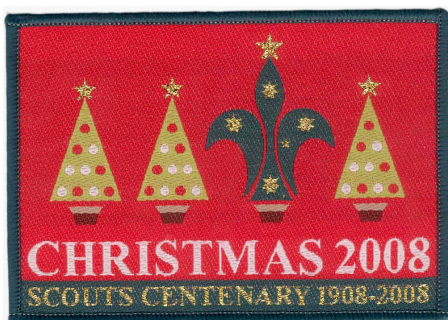
Sailing Course: 17th to 20th January 2009.

Closing date: December 1st December. Cost \$50. Get your applications in now.

Fun day on the water: 14th December 2008 at Chipping Norton. \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

Lucky Door prize - A KAYAK. There will be prizes for canoe and sailing races. Use ours or bring your own. Ermington will be selling drinks and sausage sizzle. Please bring your boats and pfd's (ensure your name is on them) There were queues for power boat games last year, so expect the same this year. It will be hot but the water will be beautiful. Remember plenty of sunscreen and drink plenty of water.

Region Activities Calendar: We will be putting next year's calendar together very shortly. If you have plans and need an Activity Team to help out, now is the time to book us.



NEW
2008 CHRISTMAS
BADGE
IN STOCK NOW AT
SNOWGUM
ONLY \$2.50 EACH

ROVER REPORT

Amanda Macleay

Public Relations/Internet Officer

Phone: 0414 523 987

pr.internet@gwsrovers.com.au



Hey guys! There is a loud call out for GWS rovers to sign up for Waratah which is being held on Friday the 14th till Sunday the 16th of November. It going to be a great weekend and they need volunteers for security. Please contact Mel Ison from Blaxland Rovers or go to <http://www.waratah.stevewallace.id.au/mainsite/index.html> for more info.

I would like to make a special mention to the Turrumurra Rovers who organised a fantastic Harbour Cruise. The night went without a hitch, which is particularly hard when dealing with Rovers, so a big BRAVO to you guys. I, and everyone else had a great night!

Also congrats to Hawkesbury River Rovers for winning Brach Moot this year. Thank you to Kings Langley Rovers for organising it as well. I heard it was a great event. YAY for Traveller's Moot!!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR GWS ROVERS

- **Moist Moot** hosted by 1st Oatley Bay Rover crew is being held on 5/12 - 7/12 at Bundeela Pondage Campground in Kangaroo Valley. For more info email moistmoot@live.com.au
- **NSW Branch Rover Ball 2009** is being held by Turrumurra Rovers at Hornsby RSL on Saturday Feb 7th, 2009. The theme is **Lords and Ladies**. Contact a Turrumurra Rover for more info.
- **Cruise Moot 2009**: Don't forget to get your friends together and pay your deposits to secure your cabins. For more information visit www.cruisemoot2009.com or email Kayla at cruisemoot2009@hotmail.com



1st Carlingford Cub Scouts

Sam Dearden, Ariana Gibian, Jake Mountford and Sam Robinson
GWSR State Finalists in action at the State Cook Off held at Bundilla
Congratulations on a splendid effort!

Guildford/3rd Merrylands JOTA/JOTI

The scouts constructed this huge aerial mast for JOTA. It is composed of three long poles, lashed together, and held up with a lot of guy wires.

The Aerial was about 100 feet long and fed the radio for contacting other scouts. The other end of the aerial was fitted to the flag pole.



(Photo courtesy of Charles Yendle CSL, 3rd Merrylands)

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