

The Bulletin

Journal of the Greater Western Sydney Region



Seasons Greetings
Seasons Greetings

No. 362 December 2008

*Wishing all our readers
a very Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year.*

*Next issue due
February 2009*

*Please keep sending me
news and photos for
publishing, with thanks
from, The Editor*



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*Holroyd District Cub Scouts on
an excursion to Bradley's Head.
They travelled by train and ferry
to gain their 'Out and About'
badges.*

*Photo courtesy; Charles Yendle
CSL 3rd Merrylands*



Congratulations and very best wishes to

Malcolm Johnstone GL

1st St Marys Scout Group

who has gained his hard earned Wood Badge

Bravo - Well Done

FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER

Jan Playford



Well here we are at the end of another year. The last two years have been extremely busy with Centenary celebrations. The coming year will also be the lead up to AJ2010 so once again 2009 augers to be busy for most of our members.

I would like to thank everyone involved with our Region for the tireless work they have put in, to give our youth members a great time.

Our numbers continue to grow, both youth and leader wise. Penrith District recently recruited 15 new leaders. FANTASTIC!!! So we can expect great things from Penrith next year, and with all those new leaders we can expect many new youth members.

Whilst we are here primarily for the youth, as adults we must take time out to enjoy ourselves as well. Take some time over the Christmas break to smell the roses and come back next year with batteries recharged and ready to go.

However, before you go on your well earned break, make sure your housekeeping is done. The membership and insurance fee will be \$78 - no change from this year. Have you told your parents? Have you sent invoices out? If you do this hopefully, you will know who is coming back, and during the first weeks of 2009 you will be able to do an accurate roll call.

Whilst we don't like numbers dropping it is imperative you resign people if they are not there - otherwise you will be invoiced for them and have to pay for them. This is particularly important for Leaders also. Do you have Leaders accruing service who are not there? You need to be looking ahead so you have sufficient Leaders all doing their best to give great Scouting to the youth members. We have amalgamated a couple of groups this year and at the moment the numbers are looking promising.

I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas. I look forward to 2009 and another successful year. I would particularly like to thank Possum for shouldering much of the load for me.

It can be trying at times dealing with over 500 leaders (not all at the same time thankfully), all doing their best and becoming frustrated at times with 'red tape'.

Fortunately I think we are all here for the same thing, and if we have improved the life and outlook of the young people in our care we have done well.

Thought for the month

Stretch out the hand of friendship,
you never know how much it may be needed.

Merry Christmas from Ian Playford



1ST WHALAN RETAINS ITS CROWN

Mark Fell DSL Blacktown

1st Whalan has held its crown as the Premier Patrol for Blacktown District for 2008, after taking out the overall points score, at the recent Blacktown District Competition Camp.

Held at Glenfield Scout Activity Centre, a total of twelve patrols from the District spent the weekend refining their skills in all aspects of camping - from site layout, to gateway construction. Part of their requirements was to invite a couple of Leaders to dinner on the Saturday night, for some camp style international cuisine (which is always interesting)! Saturday night finished with skits and bad jokes around a real campfire, with wood and flames.

A traditional Scout's Own on Sunday morning was to be overseen by Andrew Krensel, a Leader from 1st/2nd Blacktown.

Unfortunately, Andrew was unwell in the morning and had to go home. A phone call later in the day, advised us that Andrew was being operated on, to remove his appendix ...the things leaders do, to get out of a Scout's Own! We do wish Andrew a speedy recovery.



POSSUM'S CORNER

Jan Carter - Region Office

Phone: 9639 2488 Fax: 9686 2510

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



How to Register a Group's trailer

Check out the NSW Scout website for all the latest information on how to register your Group's trailer in the name of The Scout Association of Australia, NSW, along with your Group's name and address. Hopefully, this will solve the problem of renewing registration when a Group's equipment is registered in an individual's name. If you need more information, please contact Tracey Hansford at State Office.

First Aid Requalification

There is a possibility, that we will conduct 4 Requalification courses next year, for those Leaders whose First Aid Certificates are due to expire. These courses will only run if there is enough interest shown in them. The proposed dates are February 14, May 16, August 15 and October 17, 2009.

Region Office and Bundilla Scout Camp

Close on December 19th 2008 at 3.30 pm

Re-open on January 27th 2009 at 8.30 am

International Letters of Introduction

Any uniformed member planning to travel overseas, may apply to Branch HQ for an International Letter of Introduction and Australian scarf. Letters cost \$2 each and scarves cost \$20 each.

Leader Support Guide #20

Discrimination? Disability? Disruptive? Who can join or remain in Scouts? Read the latest LSG on Scouts NSW website.

As the Groups wind down for the holiday break, I can hear a lot of sighs and people saying, "thank goodness another year over," and I say, "thank you, for the work you have done for our youth members". I know weekly meetings can be very frustrating,

especially when things just don't go right and tempers get frayed. Remember that youth members get frustrated also - maybe the program leaves a little to be desired, perhaps they have had a bad day at home or school and their behavior and manners are not up to your expectations (I always blamed the strong July winds or a full moon)!

Anyway, you all have a good relaxing break, energise your batteries and come back in 2009, charged up and ready to do the job you are paid big bickies for (not)! to nurture the youth members of Greater Western Sydney Region.



Merry Christmas Jan the Elder

APPOINTMENTS NOVEMBER 2008

APPOINTMENTS

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--|
| BARRAGH, Michael | AL (G) | 1 st Blaxland Group |
| BONNICI, Jason | AL (G) | 1 st North Mt Druitt Group |
| GARSKE, Bradley | AL (G) | 1 st St Marys Group |
| GUNATILAKA Ajith | AL (G) | 1 st Westmead |
| LIPSCOMBE, Paul | AL (G) | 1 st /2 nd Blacktown Group |
| NEWMAN Owen | AL (G) | 1 st St Marys Group |
| PUGH Gregory | AL (G) | 1 st /2 nd Blacktown Group |
| ST CLAIRE-TREGILGAS Peter | AL (G) | 1 st Glossodia Group |
| STUART, Emma | AL (G) | 1 st /2 nd Blacktown Group |
| VINCENT, Jonathon | AL (G) | 1 st Blaxland Group |

TRANSFERS

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| ASPINALL, Michael | Fr ASL | 1 st Kellyville Troop |
| | To SL | 1 st Kellyville Troop |
| LEAN, Rodney | Fr JSL | 1 st St Marys Mob |
| | To AGL | 1 st St Marys Group |

RESIGNATIONS

| | | |
|----------------|--------|------------------------|
| SMITH, Lindsay | AL (G) | 1st Balcombe Hts Group |
|----------------|--------|------------------------|

***FROM THE
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER
Neville Henderson***



I need to make a few comments but don't want people to think I am being negative in what I feel I have to say.

Lately a few Leaders have made comments with regards to what Region does or does not do for Groups and I was shocked that they didn't realise that without Region and the various Region Section Commissioners the following activities would not take place; Scouts Jamborette, Cub Fun Day, Joey Fun Day, Centenary Celebration, Water Fun Day, Cub Leadership course, Venturer Waratah, Venturer Initiative course, Caving courses, Abseiling courses, Trainee Leader Interviews and sign off.

These are just some events that quickly come to mind. I would ask that next time Leaders want to "knock" Region, that they think about what our people organise for Groups, before putting their mouth into gear. If your Group chooses not to take part in these events, it is your choice.

Also, recently there have been comments by Leaders, that they are volunteers and parents. Can I remind these Leaders that all the Commissioners and Region Leaders from Jan Playford down are also volunteers and in most cases, parents also!

The Awards Presentation Night was a huge success, but I was disappointed and saddened to learn later, that the Region Commissioner's car had been "keyed" at the club. This is a low act, and I hope that it was not a Scouting person who did this, as Jan and her husband will have to pay for the vehicle to be repaired.

For a happy ending, I would thank all the Leaders for their support in 2008 and I look forward to seeing you again (after a much earned break) in 2009.

I wish you and your families a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year and I hope Santa is good to you.

Neville Henderson

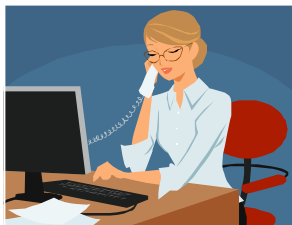


TRAINING TALK

Ann Pounder

Region Commissioner ATD

annpounder@teacher.com



2009 looks like it will be an interesting year and a challenge for those on the Training Team, with the switch to Sport and Rec in Cert II, III, IV and the Diploma, the team is going to be kept very busy. National has given us a deadline of June 2009 to have all people on the Business training scheme completed.

Please help your Leaders to complete their Basic and Advanced training. Plan the training courses they need to attend and enrol them before the closing date. Ensure they complete their Inservice for Basic training and their Project for Advanced Training. Once the training is completed, have them attend a sign off night (with their booklet). Sign off nights are held at Bundilla on the 4th Thursday of each month and will resume in February 2009. If you need more information - email me.

Flexible Training 2009

The Training Team in GWSR have recognised that weekends away with today's pressure on the family, is proving very difficult, so after signing up some 11 leaders in Penrith District alone in November we are able to bring training to the District! This will happen from time to time but will not be on a regular basis.

A **Basic Leadership 1** course is being offered for Saturday 14th and Saturday 28th February, 2009. This will be held in the Penrith District but will be open to those people who experience difficulty in getting to courses at our centres or who need them to fit in so that training can be completed. See our website as more details become available. Applications will be on the normal Training Course application form. Please be aware that **forms** will be **updated in January 2009**. The NSW website will have the updates as they become available. Please make sure the current forms are used.

Wishing you a peaceful and restful break and looking forward to seeing many of you in 2009.

From the Training Team



JOEY SCOUT NOTES

Kathy Cuneo

Region Commissioner Joey Scouts

kcuneo@tpg.com.au



The Joey Scout section will conclude the year with a Leader's dinner at Penrith on the 5th December. Details available from Rodney Lean at 1st St Marys. Thank you to Rodney for his organisation.

There are some Leaders leaving us at the end of the year. A big HOP to these Leaders and thank you from all Joeys past and present for the time and effort you have put in.

There are also new Joey Scout Leaders about to begin training and we welcome them to the section.

This month's promise challenge badges have been awarded to

Melanie Hrast - 1st North Rocks

Thomas Hrast - 1st North Rocks

Nathan Hempstead -1st Dural

HOP HOP HOP.

Plans are being made for 2009 and at present dates for the diary are:

- Sunday 31st May Joey Fun Day
- Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th June Mini Konara in conjunction with Hume Region. This is a must for all those interested in mob holidays.

To conclude 2008 I would like to thank all Joey Scout Leaders for their co-operation and participation in our Region Joey events.

Merry Christmas from

Kathy Cuneo



CUB SCOUT NOTES

Patricia Shaw

Region Commissioner Cub Scouts



Here we are at the end of another year, and what a great year it has been, as we celebrated the Year of the Scout. Let's all build on this wonderful year and continue to bring bright fun programs to the young people in our care.

Thank you for the brilliant times you have given your Cub Scouts. Thank you to the District Cub Scout Leaders and Advisors and the Region Office staff for the support they have given you and me this year.

As we take a break, remember that great programs don't just happen - they are amazing, only if you, the Leaders, put in the time to meet together and plan. To aid you with programming we are conducting a Programming Workshop on Friday, 23rd January 2009, at 7.30p.m. at Bundilla. If you are having difficulty planning your programs or just need some tips, please come along. Let your District Cub Scout Leader know if you are planning to come along, so we can give you supper.

I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Tricia Shaw



Some dates for your 2009 Diary:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| January 23 | Programming Workshop |
| April 4 | Cub Scout Leadership Course |
| May 1 | Palanee |
| August 8 | Palaver |
| August 29 & 30 | Cub Baayna |
| September 19 | Cub Scout Leadership Course |

**Don't forget to checkout the GWSR website
www.greaterwestscouts.com.au**



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

1 - 2 - 3 WOOF

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Jarod Nekipelov | 1st Toongabbie |
| Timothy Martin | 1st Toongabbie |
| Hamish Boxall | 1st Winston Hills |
| Gordon Fraser | 1st Winston Hills |
| Harry Sollom | 1st Winston Hills |
| Eleanor de Jersey | 1st Ermington |
| Thomas Marley | 1st Hawkesbury |
| Daniel Burrows | 1st Cambridge Park |
| Joshua Hockley | 1st Cambridge Park |
| Darion Roberts | 1st St Marys |



1st North Rocks Scout Group would like to congratulate Mitchell Hayes on receiving his Australian Scout Medallion.

Mitchell, pictured with the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir Government House 27th September 2008

BRAVO MITCHELL

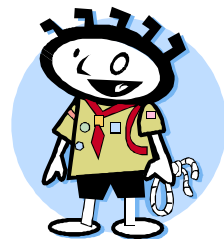


FROM THE SCOUT DEN

Robin Garrett

Region Commissioner Scouts

garrettr.j@ldschurch.org



Hi everyone. I attended the presentations at Government House in September and was again impressed by the number and quality of awardees from our Region. The State Commissioner is very impressed with the quality of Medallion projects that are being taken on by Scouts in our Region. Congratulations to Jessica Grove (1st Pendle Hill), Eugene Lee (1st Westmead) and Mitchell Hayes (1st North Rocks). We also congratulate Ben Scott for his Queen Scout Award.

Australian Jamboree 2010

Visit the Jamboree website to register on-line. The process will not be completed until you download a picture.

I have had a number of inquiries about over/under age Scouts and feel that I need to mention it here so you have all the information that you need.

Over the last few Jamborees NSW contingent in particular have had to become very strict in the observance of the age limit even to being precise. In the past there have been issues with Scouts that are over age which has caused problems for other Scouts, leaders and parents.

We unfortunately, cannot even allow for someone who was not even in Scouts when they could have attended a previous Jamboree to qualify to an upcoming one. Some may say that their Scout is only a few days over the limit and that we should be able to be somewhat flexible.

The problem with this is, that others would say that their Scout is only a week or month over the limit and produce a good enough argument to justify their request. The line has been drawn on the date and we do not cross it at all.

The only exception to this is the “*special circumstance*”, when a Scout may not necessarily have the maturity for their age. This rare circumstance has to be justified by a letter from their own doctor which will be reviewed by the contingent doctor.

2009 Scouting Calendar

| | |
|---------------|---|
| April 12 | Scout Hike Registrations Close |
| April 14 - 25 | School Holidays |
| April 19 | Scout Hike Patrol changes close |
| April 23 | Scout Hike final payment date |
| April 25 | ANZAC Day |
| May 2 - 4 | Scout Hike |
| May 26 | Jamborette closing date for Registrations |
| June 6 - 9 | Region Jamborette |
| June 29 | Region Centenary day |
| August 1 | World Scout Day |
| August 1 - 3 | State Rally |



*Queen Scout
and
Australian
Scout
Medallion
presentation
ceremony at
Government
House
27/09/2008*



BUSHWALKING NOTES

Frank Barr GWSR Bushwalking Coordinator

(H) 4758 6472 (M) 04 0912 8310

Email: data_scsi@msn.com.au



Just as the Bushwalking Policy allows us to do certain things, it also imposes limits and restrictions. They are there for our own safety and should be followed by all. Most bushwalk outings that end in grief usually start by ignoring rules and regulations. This applies to both Scout and non Scout outings. While following the rules does not guarantee a trouble free outing, proper planning and regard for requirements have allowed many of us to enjoy many years of enjoyable, incident free outings.

Not all bush activities comes under the policy. Nature walks, standing camps etc are not always included. My definition is a walk that takes us more than an hour away from civilization (houses, public roads, transport etc). Any such walk should be planned and undertaken according to the policy.

We have restrictions with time and distance. A maximum of 2 days and 30 kms for a Preliminary Bushwalking Leader (PBL) and 4 days and 60 kms for qualified Bushwalking Leader (BL).

We also have a non-remote requirement. Even though the BL qualification allows 4 day walks, we cannot be more than 24 hours from civilization. Such a restriction excludes some popular Blue Mountains walks like Kanangra Walls to Katoomba via Cloudmaker.

The policy also stipulates maximum party size. It varies between qualifications held by youth members (5 for PBL and 7 for BL) and adults (6 for PBL and 8 for BL). The minimum party size is defined as 4 for all qualifications. *Note*; Venturer passport requires a minimum of 5 for Expeditions 1 and 2.

Parties having both youth and adults also have restrictions. In mixed (youth/adult) groups, at least one adult must have a COAL. Also, if the youth member is leading the activity, at least 50% of the party must be youth members. *Note*; Venturer passport excludes adults completely from Expeditions 1 and 2.

We are also required to accept duty of care responsibility for youth member bushwalks. This means that bushwalks not approved by Leaders are not permitted, even if they only involve youth members.

Sorry to finish the year on a negative note, but we do have responsibilities as well as rights. We are also dealing with a very precious commodity and should all strive to maintain our excellent safety record. Fun and challenging activities can be undertaken in a safe and enjoyable way.

Best wishes to all for the festive season and I hope each and every one, has an enjoyable break. For those partaking in outdoor activities over Christmas, spare a bit of extra time for bushfire contingency plans. Fires are becoming part of our Summer scene and add a new dimension to timely escape routes.

All Summer walkers should have a working knowledge of bushfire behavior characteristics in the Australian environment.

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

STOP PRESS

May 29 - 31 2009 BL 2 (Course No. 463 09 009) Pennant Hills, has been cancelled.

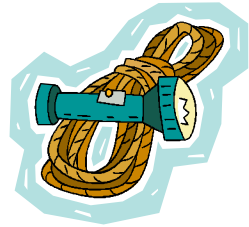
May 29 - 31 2009 Scout-Venturer- Rover AL2 (Course No. 528 09 002) has been re-located from Pennant Hills and will now be run at Glenrock Scout Centre.

ROCK RELATED ACTIVITIES

Rick Jamieson Region RRA Co-ordinator

Phone: 4572 1321

Email: rickj15@bigpond.com



Coming Activities

Abseil (Rockcraft) Courses: Tue 10th Feb (theory at Bundilla) and 14th and 15th Feb (practical at Bowen Mtn and Yellow Rock); and also Tue 14th April (theory) and 18th and 19th April (practical)

Canyon Trip: Sun 4th Feb to Birrabang Canyon. An easy trip suitable for Scouts – no abseils or swims – (but a GREAT introduction to canyoning).

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.)

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

Caving Course: Tue 28th April (theory at Bundilla), 2nd and 3rd May practical at Bungonia.

Scout Abseil Badge Course: Fri 3rd April (theory) at a Scout Hall suitable to the applicants; Sun 5th April (practical) at West Pennant Hills or Blaxland.

**Group Courses can be arranged by contacting Rick.*

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 cost \$5.

Visit our website:

www.beprepared.com.au/gws

Excitement on the face of a Leader during a recent GWSR canyon trip!



REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM

Keith Travers Activity Commissioner

9632-3341

kctrav@internode.on.net



What a year we have had boating! The last two months, we have been on the water canoeing or kayaking. We have had nearly 190 on our courses this year, this is nearly 50 up on last year. With all the centenary celebrations, I thought we would have a quiet year on the water, but not so. We still have our Fun Day on the Water on December 14 (you will probably receive this Bulletin after the event). If this proves successful we can have our own Sirius Cup each year, when people can learn to sail and then race. All our races will be fun races so we won't be too serious.

There has been a little concern over forms - which one to complete? For all activities, including courses, you need to fill in an A1 form. Water and Rock activities have their own forms that need to be completed also. The forms and money need to be lodged with Region Office at least two weeks before the event. Make sure any health problems are noted on the forms.

Water and Rock activity forms will be on the website shortly. The new calendar is on the website for next year. If you have a large group for an activity/course, contact Rick Jamieson (Rock) or Keith Travers (Boating) to arrange a special date for your group rather than filling the advertised dates, which are best left for small Groups to combine and fill.

Don't forget - now is time to plan activities and let us know when you need us.

Have a Merry Christmas

and

Prosperous New Year

Keith

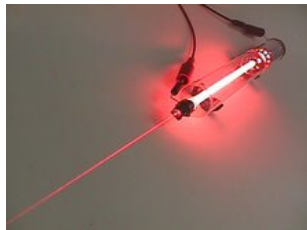


RADIO, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

John Leahy

(H) 4572 1549 (W) 8467 3592

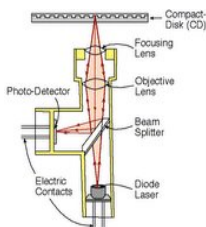
john.leahy@measurement.gov.au



Laser Show

This month we trialed a new activity with Blaxland Venturers (mainly because they had ‘used up’ all our other programs). I’d wanted to do a night on Lasers for a while, but couldn’t find a ‘wow’ centre piece. Well I eventually found it in the skip at work, a gas Helium-Neon laser tube. These are quite dramatic to see operating in the open (they are usually enclosed because they run on 10,000 volts.) The good thing about this type of laser is that you can explain (vaguely) how it works, can’t do that with a solid state laser pointer. So equipped with glowing tube and a handful of pointers I attempted to show the following:

- Notice that the HeNe laser is orange-red (wavelength 635nm) against the deep red (670nm) of the laser pointer.
- Laser beam through cut glass objects – all sorts of interesting patterns
- Shadow internals of light globes. Gives a nice sharp silhouette on the opposite side. We looked at different sorts of frosted globes and fluros.
- Internal reflection of beam in water, with a drop of milk to make the path visible.
- Diffraction pattern of beam through spectrum glasses (for viewing 3D images on flat paper)
- Deflect beam off CD and DVD disks to show different pit size and track spacing.
- Use mirror cubes to rotate an image projected by a pointer fitted with a hologram image.
- See how a plastic rod spreads the beam into a line
- Spread the beam through a lens and look at the image projected. If the speckles move in the same direction as you head then you are farsighted, opposite to the movement then you are nearsighted.
- Observe the projected image of the beam through a flame.
- See the beam bend when passing through a cold area or water with a graded amount of sugar dissolved in it.



- Take apart a CD player and find the laser (and the sensor and focus lens)
- Using a microscope lens look at an opened up laser package and see the laser crystal and the sensor behind it.
- Take apart a laser engine (the unit that makes a laser printer work) and see the laser and spinning mirror.
- Talk over a laser beam, or hear what is being said behind a window by reflecting a laser beam off it.
- Find the direction of polarisation of the laser using a Polarized filter.
- Observe the plane of polarising of light reflected from milk in the beams path. (Rayleigh scattering)
- Play a game of 'Deflection', where the moving pieces have mirrors attached and the object is to hit you opponent's man with the installed laser beam.

I was surprised when one of the girls suggested she could show the others how to play my Deflection game. 'I have this game at home, so I'll teach them'. I was by myself, so couldn't get around to demonstrate everything. One of the Leaders had his Laser survey gear in the car, so we filled the hall with smoke from my smoke machine, turned off the lights, and flooded the hall with sheets and beams of red laser light. Quite impressive!



Bookings for 2009

Looking ahead to next year we have ten spare nights available after August. Plan early to have us visit you in 2009.

| | | |
|------------|------------------|------------------|
| Fri 30 Jan | 1st Blaxland | Scouts |
| Wed 4 Feb | 1st Hawkesbury | Joeys then Cubs |
| Tue 10 Feb | 2nd Castle Hill | Joeys then Cubs |
| Fri 20 Feb | 1st Blaxland | Scouts |
| Tue 24 Feb | Berowra | Joeys then Cubs |
| Mon 2 Mar | 1st Balcombe Hts | Joeys then Cubs |
| Mon 9 Mar | 1st Merrylands | Joeys |
| Thu 19 Mar | 1st Parramatta | Cubs then Scouts |
| Tue 24 Mar | West PH Valley | Cubs |
| Mon 30 Mar | 1st Erskine Pk | Cubs |

Local Activity Coordinators (formerly ZAC's) December 2008

Greater Western Sydney Region

Activity Notification Forms must be lodged 2 weeks before the event to;

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Blacktown - District Commissioner | cparker@tadaust.org.au |
| Blue Mountains - Paul Roach | maroa50@hotmail.com |
| Hawkesbury - Region Office | cartwright@ozemail.com.au |
| Hills South District | vandenburg@exemail.com.au |
| Holroyd District | pamron@optusnet.com.au |
| Parramatta District | neville.henderson@aeitransport.com.au |
| Penrith City District | paula.hyatt@bigpond.com.au |

Hume Region

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Region Office | hum.region@nsw.scouts.com.au |
| Except Southern Highland | ramsdens@hinet.net.au |

Hunter & Coastal Region

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| East - Phillip Sparkes | sparx@idl.com.au |
| South- Robert Mawson | rmawson@dodo.com.au |
| West - Dallas Blatchford | dablatch@dodo.com.au |
| North - Geoff James | Ph: 4933 7092 Fax: 4934 1627 |

North West Region

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Region Office | nw.region@nsw.scouts.com.au |
|---------------|-----------------------------|

North Coast

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Region Office | nc.region@nsw.scouts.com.au |
|---------------|-----------------------------|

Riverina Region

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Region Office | riv.region@nsw.scout.com.au |
| Except Kosciusko National Park | Kevin Waddington Ph: 6453 8730 Fax: 6453 8836 |

Cocoparra & Willandra N Park
Wee Jasper, Yarrangobilly and
Coolamon Caves

Greg Press Ph: 6955 7306
Brett Farquharson
Ph: 6337 6133 Fax: 6227 6044

South Coast & Tablelands

Monaro - Brian Farmer

Ph: 6456 2432 Fax: 6450 1063

Shoalhaven Morton National Park
& Budawang Ranges

Warren Goodall 4257 2226

Shoalhaven (Except above)

Alex Paton

patonplace@southernphone.com.au

Eurodalla - Terry Jackson

Ph: 4471 1780 Fax: 4471 2514

Far South - Margaret Broadbent

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Please keep handy for ready reference

VENTURER REPORT

Mark Absalom RC Venturers Scouts

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It was a cold, wet Friday Night, when 77 unsuspecting Venturer Scouts from around the Region gathered at The Danelaw – a private property near Braidwood in the states Southern Highlands, to compete in Waratah's toughest challenge yet, Survivor:Waratah.

At 2:00am the Survivor Theme rang out across the campsite calling all the Venturers to the Tribal Council, held in an log fort on the top of a hill – It was here that the Venturers finally realised that Waratah had gone hardcore as they were evicted from their tents, given their pet chicken and led into the bush. They had to use their meagre supplies to build a shelter, ration food and setup a comfortable camp for the weekend.

The next two days continued to drizzle as our intrepid survivors came to face with their fair share of reward activities, whilst some teams had to use their brains to solve puzzles and beat the floor, others had to shoot our target off the fort walls or taste a number of unusual treats in the Survivor Cafe. We also had javelin throwing, 3 way tug-o-war and the pure physical challenge of our 'Heave' Obstacle course. These activities continued throughout the weekend in a round robin format.

Other activities across the weekend included a massive Survivor Auction which saw everything from one single M & M, to a chicken to a hot fresh pizza go under the hammer. We also had tribal council – complete with torches, buffs, blindsides and fire.

Waratah is a competition camp with the idea of teams having to work together, and this year everything was marked from the way teams acted at activities to the way they built their campsites. The **Winners of Waratah 2008** were the **tribe Nomad from 1st Hazelbrook Venturer Unit, The Pilgrims from 1st North Rocks came second and the Blazing Sunburns from West Pennant Hills Valley came in 3rd place.**

This year's camp was extremely difficult to compete in, due to the nature of the camp. All the Venturers should be congratulated for the maturity, skills and determination they displayed on the weekend. A huge thank you also goes to the dedicated team of Leaders and Rovers who helped over the weekend. We would not have been able to run Survivor:Waratah without them.

1st Hazelbrook Nomads

Ethan Whyte (Capt)
Tom Shaddock
John Bray
Miles Harris-Ayling
Kimberly Gash
Ben Lawrence
Aids - the Chicken!



The Winning Team
receiving their trophy from
RC Mark Absalom
and proudly posing with their
Group Flag
Congratulations Nomads



Elizabeth Truscott, ACSL 1st Westmead, receives her most well deserved Silver Kangaroo Award from RC Jan Playford at 1st Westmead Scout Hall, 10/12/2008. Congratulations Betty.

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