

The Bulletin

Journal of the Greater Western Sydney Region



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA NSW
GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION



Mrs. Jan Playford

Region Commissioner

and

Mr. Neville Henderson

Deputy Region Commissioner

Cordially Invite You

to

*The 2009 Adult Recognition Awards
Celebration Dinner*

on

Thursday October 15, 2009

6.30pm for 7pm start

at

Blacktown RSL Club

Second Avenue

Blacktown

Scouters please wear uniform and decorations.

\$35 Per Person

RSVP 1st October '09

See Page 19 for RSVP advice slip

No. 370 September 2009

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REGION OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY to FRIDAY
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Closed for Lunch
1:00pm – 1:30 pm



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 the GWSR or Scouts Australia.

Submissions must be made by the **20th day of the month preceding publication** and may be edited for clarity or to fit available print space. Unless specifically requested, submissions and photographs will not be returned except when accompanied by a self addressed envelope. Articles and illustrations (except for copyright items) from the Bulletin may be re-used unaltered by other Scouting publications and credits shown.
Editor; Anne Thompson anne.dlcs@gmail.com

FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER

Jan Playford

Email: rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au



Building a Better Future

Hello Everyone

On Sunday 23rd August I attended a dual presentation of the Scout Medallion and the Queen Scout Award. Brendan and Sean Emery (yes, brothers) were the proud recipients.

1st Westmead Group was the venue; with peers, Leaders, parents and friends as well as the Mayor of Holroyd and a representative from Parramatta Council present. A most impressive presentation did these two fine young men proud. Jeff Hook was the MC and Andy Walker gave the Queen Scout 's Charge, which brought many a lump to the throat. Andy is a King Scout and Jeff a Queen Scout, so their roles were rather fitting. There was also an impressive number of Queen Scouts and Queen Guides present and a group photo was taken. Chris McGrath SL, Eliza McGrath VL, Robin Garrett RC Scouts and Aaron Wardle RC Venturers took part in the presentations. Both Brendan and Sean gave articulate speeches and are a credit to their family. Both politicians spoke and were most impressed with the ceremony and Brendan and Sean. It is rather awe inspiring to look at their logs and see the amount of work undertaken to achieve their respective awards.

Whilst it is the individual who gains the award there are many people behind the scenes, assisting along the way. To all the Leaders who offer the inspiration, the Program, the activities and the advice; to the parents who support, chauffeur, advise and sometimes have to give the push needed; to the peers who also support, aid and participate in the required activities to enable the achievement; to the Region Leaders who support, advise, help with logs and activities and finally process the paperwork required - my sincere thanks to you all. It is wonderful to see that our Program is working and that we are helping to produce such fine, upstanding young citizens in our community. I know these young men are our Leaders of tomorrow.

Have you accessed our website recently?

www.greaterwestscouts.com.au There is a fountain of information on available grants, the latest Leader Support Guides and a Calendar of Events, as well as the Invitation to our Celebration Dinner.

Is your Group having a special event? Are you planning your calendar for next year? Drop our webmaster a line and Matt will make sure it is added to the calendar on line.

Blacktown recently held a Billy Cart Day with people attending from out of Region. This is great to foster relations with other Regions. We believe they saw it advertised on the web!

Our numbers continue to grow. Is your Group recruiting? If you have had a successful recruitment, please let us know so we can share your tips with others. We have a lot of new members, who I am sure would be interested. We tend to forget that we were new once and eager to learn new ideas and procedures. We need to support our 'newbies' and share the knowledge we have gained over many years. We also need to be open to different ideas and to not fear change - you never know it may be for the better.

Thought of the month:

Don't get bogged down in concerns for what you have tried and failed.

It is far better to concern yourself with what is still possible for you to do!



Jan Playford

THE BUNDY CLUB WORKING BEE @ BUNDILLA

10th October - 9am to 1pm

Don't be shy - please come and lend a hand with some of the jobs (some big, some small) that need attention at Bundilla.

Everyone welcome. No special skills required.

Dress code: Old clothes, hat and gloves.

Morning tea will be provided.

We look forward to your company and help.

Remember: Many hands make light work!



POSSUM'S CORNER

Jan Carter - Region Office Manager

Phone: 9639 2488

Fax: 9686 2510

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



Possum's 'Whinges'

◆ Hi All, I am having a bit of trouble getting through to some folk. My Office Hours are 8.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday. The office is closed from 1.00 pm – 1.30 pm for a reason; I have a health issue and must eat at the same time each day. Despite this having been in the Bulletin for some months now, I still get early phone calls and people coming in during my lunch break - knocking on the door and coming into the Office even though there is a green fluoro sign that states the Office is closed. (Those people who do this to me, may find that, just like animals in the zoo, I might get ferocious and eat them instead of my sandwiches)!

◆ Bundilla is a really nice place to have a camp, so nice that many other organisations are also using Bundilla for their camps, conferences and peer support training courses etc. Now as much as we try to keep the camp and buildings clean and clear of rubbish, some people are making decisions for me as to what should be left here for disposal to other Groups. Mostly it comes from people who are moving or clearing out their garages, have found some *old stuff* and thought we might like it. I really do appreciate the offer, and I give them contacts details for several Groups near them, who might be interested in the items. This saves me having to store, sort and eventually throw the unwanted items in the waste disposal bin (at our great expense)! ***So please respect Bundilla and its cleanliness as much as the Bundy Club and I do.***

◆ All Jamborette lost property has been donated to Charity.

◆ Very few Groups have bothered to send the Scout Job Week Remittance forms back by 31st August. It's sad that some members have worked hard and will not receive the awards. I will extend the date until I run out of Awards (probably mid September).

APPOINTMENTS AUGUST 2009

Appointments

BARBER, Peter	AL	1 st Ermington Group
BEAHAN Daniel	AL	1 st Whalan Group
BOTTO Josie	AL	1 st Ermington Group
BUERCKNER Scott	AL	1 st Whalan Group
CASEY Timothy	AL	1 st Whalan Group
HAMILTON Toni	AL	1 st Whalan Group
HIGGINS Diane	AL	1 st Ermington Group
HUTCHEON Juliane	AL	1 st Ermington Group
NELSON Brian	AL	1 st Murray Farm Group
SULLIVAN Neal	AL	1 st Quakers Hill-Doonside Group
WORSLEY Bernard	AL	1 st Ermington Group

FIRST AID COURSES

Scouters and Venturers

Do you need your First Aid qualification to attend the Jamboree 2010?

Then here are two opportunities for you - don't miss out.

Senior First Aid Course

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November, \$85
Closing date 13th November.

First Aid Refresher

Saturday 17th October, \$75
Closing date 2nd October.

We need ten applicants to run each course - so apply now to Region Office. A1's are available on the website.

Adult Recognition Awards Dinner

Please join us for dinner at Blacktown RSL on October 15, and show your support for your fellow Scouters who are receiving their awards. RSVP by October 1 - see page 19. Don't forget to let us know your table seating preference when making your reservation.

Thank you. Jan the Elder



All the Fun of the Fair - Agoonorette

2ND TO 6TH OCTOBER 2009

KUM BA YAH GUIDE CAMP, MT. KEIRA

All the Fun of the Fair Agoonorette is an integrated camp for ALL Scouts and Guides, with and without disabilities. Venturers, Rovers, Rangers, Fellowship members and Leaders are also invited and encouraged to attend.

There will be a wide range of fun activities, including a day outing to Jamberoo Action Park, crafts, bushwalk, 'Music Man/Rocket Man', Games Night, Campfire Night, Movie Night, and much more!

This is a camp under canvas. Participants will need to arrange their own tentage, though this can be organised if required. There is some indoor accommodation for those who require it. All meals are included and catered for. There will be a roster for helping.

Sunday 4th October is Visitor's Day (includes Joeys and Cubs). There will be an on site **Day at the Fair** with a side show alley, clowns, juggling, hoops, stilts, tight rope walking, acrobats, magic, animal farm. Cost is \$5 for day visitors, which includes a badge and all activities. Please BYO lunch.

Early arrivals from 4pm, Friday 2nd October, last departures by 3pm on Tuesday 6th October. **Cost;** \$120 for youth members \$100 for Leaders and other helpers. *Day rates are negotiable.*

Application Forms are available for download from the GWSR website www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

Closing Date for Applications: Friday 18th September 2009

All completed application forms with full payment are to be sent to:

**AGOONORETTE
PO Box 642
BURWOOD NSW 1805**

Please make cheques/money orders payable to Scouts Australia.

For further information contact:

Mark Burfield, Assistant State Commissioner, Special Needs
Mobile: 0425 236 617 Email: oceaniahq@froggy.com.au

JOEY SCOUT NOTES

Sandy Knox

District Leader Joey Scouts

Email: dljs@gwsjoey.org.au



Blacktown Billy Cart Day

Congratulations to Lorraine Shaw and her team for running a fabulous Billy Cart Day on Sunday 16th August. Joeys and Cubs from Blacktown District, Parramatta District, Penrith District, and even from outside GWSR - 1st Abbotsford, converged with their families on Morreau Reserve, Rooty Hill for an exciting day of Billy Cart races. After some practice runs, where participants built on their racing skills, it was off to participate in the official races. This was a great opportunity for the youth to share in an activity that their parents reminisced about. What a great family day. Not only did the Joeys and Cubs get to race, but so did their siblings, parents and Leaders. It is amazing to see just how competitive some of these parents and Leaders are – I guess the youth must have inherited their competitive urges from their families.

Thanks to the Rovers for coming along to cook the lunch. It was a great family day – and it was such a wonderful opportunity for the Joeys to work closely with their Cub Packs.

HOP HOP HOP and 1 2 3 WOOF

Hands Across the Water

All Joey Mobs are invited to participate in Hands Across the Water. Joey Mobs will be corresponding with their overseas counterparts, Beavers and Keas, and will swap badges, tapes, pictures, information and programs. See the website www.gwsjoey.org.au to register your interest, or contact Kathy Cuneo for more information.

Wandarrah

Our theme for Wandarrah on September 18, will be 2010 Planning. Please bring along all your fabulous ideas for events you would like to help run for GWSR Joey Scouts. With all your excellent ideas we will be able to make 2010 a really exciting time for our Joey Scouts. Please email your ideas to joeys@greaterwestscouts.com.au if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Congratulations to the following
Joey Scouts who have gained their
Promise Challenge award.



Michael Hillyard - 1st Blaxland
Jayden McEwan - 1st Winston Hills
Bradley Matthews - 1st Kings Langley

HOP

HOP

HOP



*A photo gallery of Blacktown's Billy Cart Day 16/8/2009
a fun event for all the family!*



Book the Science Team for next year...NOW!

John Leahy	(H) 4572 1549 (W) 8467 3592
	john.leahy@nmi.gov.au
Karl Humphreys	karlhumphreys@iprimus.com
Andy Walker	Awalker@barekoala.net
Murray Irwin	9868 5559

Bookings for September 2009

Wed 2	Winston Hills	Venturers	Lasers
Tue 8	2nd Castle Hill	Joeys then Cubs	Magnetics/Arcs & Sparks
Tue 15	Mona Vale	Cubs	?
Fri 25	1 st Whalan	Scouts	Arcs & Sparks

Bookings for October 2009

17-18	JOTA		
Thu 22	1 st /2 nd Merrylands	Joeys then Cubs	?
Sat 24	Canterbury Children's Festival		
Thu 29	1st Carlingford	Cubs then Scouts	?

Hovering up to Scouts

The Hover nights have been well received by the Cubs and Scouts. Based on friction, why we need it and when we don't, then ways to minimise it: floating by magnetics, electrostatics, wings (both fixed and rotating), lighter than air vehicles and finally floating on a film of air.

A recent night saw us at 2nd Baulkham Hills with Cubs followed by Scouts. The Scouts joined Cubs at the end of their closing because 5 cubs were going up to Scouts. The Scout Leader had spoken to me before the ceremony about using the Hover disk to bring the Cubs up to Scouts. The results can be seen in the pictures.



Intercom 'Radio'

A simple way to train Scouts to conduct a conversation on radio is to connect them via an intercom with cable in two separate rooms. They have to think about what they have heard, push and hold the talk switch, make their reply, say 'over', release the switch, and listen to the other Scout. A Leader in each room could monitor the 'contacts' and suggest improvements.

SOME USEFUL HINTS FOR JOTA

Following on from my last article I have decided to write a few hints and tips for the Cubs and Scouts leading up to JOTA. *So here it goes:*

- **First point - how the kids handle themselves on air;**

I have had countless cases of poor use of the microphones. One of the most amusing of these is when the kids get on the microphone and freeze up almost instantly. What makes it even more amusing is that they have probably been yapping away beforehand, being a pain in the radio room, thus making it hard for others to talk; a bit of poetic justice I think. The point I am trying to get across is that **kids tend to engage mouth before brain**, this is a common problem I see at JOTA weekends, so be mindful of it. I find that giving them a quick lesson on how to talk on the radio using a *disconnected microphone* helps them get the hang of the push-to-talk switch. **Another problem is the scouts being cut off** by pushing or releasing the transmit switch at the wrong time, and *talking too fast*. The unfortunate operator on the other end has a lot of problems understanding them (particularly American stations).

- **Second point - the way the kids use the prompting questions;**

If you read my last article in The Bulletin you would understand they can be a life saver, but what I find most kids doing is **just reading down the list** and **asking each question in turn**, only getting a **short answer** from the other scout. This is not the idea of the questions, they are meant as **conversation starters**. In the case of “what scout group do you go to?” question can lead on to “where is that?” or “what is it like there?” this can lead to a number of interesting contacts and possible friendships. I really get disheartened when I hear the kids just read the list, as I know they are out of their comfort zone talking on the radio, not thinking about what the answers are, and just going through the questions as a chore.

I was that way too when I first started, but once you get a feel for the Scout on the other end of the contact, and find something that both parties like, the resulting conversation can be very rewarding.

Who knows, you may even have a few Scouts keen to do their Amateur Radio badge after the week-end! So if you could to talk to your Scouts nearer JOTA, and pass on some of these ideas, it will make the weekend MORE FUN for everyone involved; after all, that is why we do it, right?☺
Hope to hear you on air over the weekend of 17-18 October.



Karl Humphreys (BUZZ/VK2HKF)
GWSR Radio, Science and Technology Team

CUB SCOUT NOTES

Patricia Shaw

Region Commissioner Cub Scouts

Email: cubs@greaterwestscouts.com.au



Thank you to all who made 'Cub Baanya', such a great weekend.

Out and About Month

November Out and About month, so take your cub scouts out by public transport and be seen. There is a special badge for this event so order the badges from your DLCS for just \$2.00 each.

Future Scout Day at AJ2010

Will be held on 9th January, 2010 at Cataract Scout Park. You will need to register online (state Website) and pay \$20 per person to the State Office (this will get you activities, badge, pin and award). Cubs will need to bring a packed lunch and plan to eat lunch with scouts from your groups or districts.

We will be travelling by bus (cost to be advised). This will need to be paid to the Region Office. Everyone must apply prior to the day; if you have not registered you will not be allowed entry.



*Games and the Knotting Base
(Ballista construction) were
among the fun activities on offer
at Cub Baanya.*

Photos courtesy of Matt Thompson

VENTURER REPORT

Aaron Wardle RC Venturer Scouts

Mobile: 0421 076 497

Email: venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au



Region Venturer Leadership Course

Last month we held our Region Leadership Course. We had 36 participants on the course including guests from three of our neighboring Regions. I must congratulate all of them on their constructive participation and good behaviour throughout. With the large number of Venturers in attendance, we were able to run two separate programs in parallel, and this structure worked exceptionally well. I would like to express my greatest thanks to Frank Barr, Adam McLean, Terry Darragh and Steve Wallace for their huge effort in preparing for the weekend.

As well, I would like to extend my appreciation to Ann Pounder, Matt Thompson and Mitch Shaw for joining us in delivering some of our sessions. Finally, the course could not have been the success it was without the dedicated efforts of Gary Riches, Chris Hanson and Duncan Watts from 1st Oakville, who prepared the delicious food, including the especially amazing three course formal dinner enjoyed by all, on Saturday night.

Waratah Camp

Preparations are progressing quickly for our annual Waratah Camp at Glenrock. All participants need to register on the Waratah website www.waratah.greaterwestscouts.com.au

As reported last month, Scouts over the age of 14 years, have been invited to join in the fun and to give them a taste of the Venturer Section. Each team is permitted to have up to three Scouts, and units are being encouraged to contact their local troops and invite eligible members to attend the camp. Bonus points will also be awarded to teams that have Scouts joining them. As well, we have been receiving some interest from out of Region, ensuring that this year's camp should once again be a highlight of the Venturer Calendar.

ROCK RELATED ACTIVITIES

Rick Jamieson Region RRA Co-ordinator

Phone: 4572 1321

Email : rickj15@bigpond.com



Scout abseiling in Yileen Canyon

A1 Forms

We are making progress in getting our A1 forms onto the GWSR website.

COMING ACTIVITIES

Abseil (Rockcraft) Course: Tue 27th October (theory at Bundilla) and 31st October and 1st November (practical at Bowen Mtn. and Yellow Rock).

Scout Top-Rope Climbing Badge Course: 25th September (theory at a suitable scout hall) and 27th September (practical at Lindfield rocks).

Caving Course: Tue 20th October (theory at Bundilla) and 24th and 25th October (practical at Bungonia).

Cave Trip: 21st and 22nd November at Wee Jasper.

Rescue (Recovery) Course: Sun 8th Nov. at Bowen Mtn.

Canyon Course: 14th and 15th November at Bowens Creek South Branch and Serendipity (camp out at Mt. Wilson).

Canyon Trip: Sun 6th December to River Caves and Deep Pass (easy - suitable for beginner Scouts - no abseils or compulsory swimming).

(Group Courses can be arranged by contacting Rick).

Applications (on the A1 Form) should be sent to Region Office two weeks before the course. Two-day and three-day courses cost \$20, one-day trips \$10, Scout Proficiency Badge courses \$5.

Visit our website: www.beprepared.com.au/gws

REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM

Keith Travers Activity Commissioner

Telephone: 9632-3341

Email: activities@greaterwestscouts.com.au



The warm weather has arrived, but the water is still cool 18°C, perfect for canoeing before the crowds arrive, but not good for swimming without a wetsuit.

Some vacancies for Canoeing Courses;

3rd & 4th October, 6th & 7th November, 14th & 15th November, 28th & 29th November, 5th & 6th December

*(Please note there is no course on 6th and 7th October as previously advertised). **Book early, as these courses fill quickly.***

SAILING COURSE; 10th to 14th October (school hols) 9am - 4pm cost \$50, closing date 28th September. There will not be a sailing course in Christmas hols due to Jamboree.

Do you want to sail at the Jamboree, in the Boorree Regatta (South Met), The Sirius Cup (North Met) or the Rathmines Cup on Lake Macquarie? ***Then you need sailing qualifications!*** Canoe Quals do not allow you to sail! We have 11 sailing boats just waiting to be used. If you have an expired Sailing Qualification, we could arrange a sail on a Saturday or Sunday for your Practical Test and then you would need to sit the Theory Exam also. Cost \$10 for one day.

FAMILY FUN DAY ON THE WATER; 13th December 2009 at Lake Chipping Norton. The day will include sailing, canoeing races and abseiling. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Cost \$5. Register with Region Office.

Remember to watch the weather and tides.

New tide charts are available from most suppliers.

See you on the water! Keith Travers

TRAINING TALK

Ann Pounder

Region Commissioner ATD

Email: training@greaterwestscouts.com.au



I would like to start by saying thank you to Terry Darragh, who stepped in and held the fort for me and Aafke Fitcher-Hall for running the Introductory Interviews and Final Paperwork nights during my recent leave of absence. Their help was very much appreciated, and it is good to know that I have such a supportive team who can step in and help at such short notice.

Aafke will continue to run the Intro Interview nights and the team will be available for the 4th Thursday of the month paperwork nights. We intend to have more PLA's involved in these nights.

Courses for next year

We intend to run a BL1 in the Hills South District (not in February as we are already running one at Pennant Hills).

A BL2 will also be organised after the BL1.

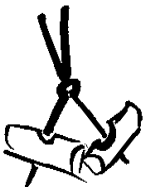
We have also had requests, from a number of Leaders in the Blue Mountains, to run an AL1 in their District - so we will consider this and keep you informed. These will be over a number of Saturdays. A TT1 course will also be organised.

Dates are yet to be decided for 2010. Those people, interested in any of these proposed courses, are asked to contact me on the GWSR email address, to help with dates.



Map and Compass Base at Cub Baanya

Photos courtesy of Matt Thompson



*Congratulations and Best Wishes to
the following Leaders who have gained
their hard earned Wood Badges*

Linda Coffill	Scout Woodbadge	1st Grose Vale
Jo Chamberlain	Joey Woodbadge	1st Kings Langley
Margo Dalziel	Venturer Woodbadge	1st Kings Langley
Terry Darragh	Venturer Woodbadge	1st Blaxland
Chris Henry	Scout Woodbadge	1st Castle Hill
Terri Henry	Scout Woodbadge	1st Castle Hill
Anne Thompson	LOA Woodbadge	DLCS Holroyd

Bravo - Well done

ROTARY RAFFLE

- This is the last Rotary raffle to help you raise funds for AJ2010.
- You retain 75% of your sales and return 25% with the butts.
- The minimum order is one bundle of 25 books (10 tickets @ \$2 ea)
- The great draw card is a car as First Prize and the unbeatable 75% margin to you.
- There is no better good - prized raffle and no easier way to raise funds.
- A good - prized raffle needs to sell \$140,000 to clear 75%. Only by combining many small Groups, can this 75% net rate of return be achieved!

Order now by;

Post Mr. Walter Bock
Central Coordinator of the Rotary Community Chest
10 Gollan Avenue
OATLANDS NSW 2117

Fax 9630 5943 or

Email www.rotarnet.com.au/Burwood



1ST NORTH ROCKS VENTURER UNIT PROMOTION

Dorothy Bell (Dino) VSL

1st North Rocks Venturer Unit

We are pleased to report that on July 6, Lachlan Hayes from 1st North Rocks Scout Troop and Daniel Morrissey-Rech from 1st Parramatta Scout Troop became the first to achieve the *Try Venturing Badge* with our Unit.

How they did it; Daniel attended the 1st North Rocks Try Venturing Formal Dinner, small bore rifle range activity and Parramatta Council's Nature's Recycling information night.

Lachlan did more than was required by attending the 1st North Rocks Try Venturing Dinner, small bore rifle range activity, Parramatta Council's Nature's recycling information sessions and also assisted the Venturer Unit at the Venture Out promotional activity. Both Scouts can now wear the Try Venturer badge for the rest of their time in Scouts. Well done guys!

It was a pleasure having these older Scouts along, displaying such enthusiasm, to share in the fun times with our Venturer Unit. It was also great to see them made welcome additions to our activities as well as sharing the opportunity to build on the relationship between the Scout and Venturer sections for the future.

1st North Rocks Venturers look forward to seeing more of the 13.5 years or older Scouts join them to experience the Venturer Scout's way and to earn the Try Venturing badge.



Bravo Daniel and Lachlan

2009 Adult Recognition Awards Celebration Dinner

RSVP

BY 4.00PM OCTOBER 1, 2009

NAME OF ATTENDEES

(Please Print Clearly)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

\$35 per person

Cheques payable to *Scouts Australia*

Please forward this slip and money to Region Office.

Scouts Australia
GWS Region Office
6 Baden Powell Place
WINSTON HILLS NSW 2153



For further enquiries phone 9639 2488

The Greater Western Sydney Region Bulletin
This Bulletin is produced monthly.
Contributions for the Bulletin should be lodged with the Editor
no later than the 20th day of the month preceding publication.
The Greater Western Sydney Region Office is located at
6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills 2153
Telephone: 9639 2488

If unable to be delivered, return to
Scouts Australia, NSW
GWSR Office
6 Baden Powell Place
Winston Hills NSW 2153

**PRINT
POST
PP 255003/01616**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

The Bulletin
Journal of the GWSR