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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

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9639 2488
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9686 2510

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

Neville Henderson

Email: rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au



Building a Better Future

On Wednesday 21st October, Jan Playford stood down from the position of Region Commissioner, after three years in the role. She will be missed as our Leader, by many people, but has already indicated she will continue to be part of the Region Executive and may be available to assist with other projects which arise in the future.

I am sure that you will all join with me in thanking Jan for the excellent work she has done as Region Commissioner and wish her and Barry the very best for the future. Jan will take up a new appointment as an Honorary Region Commissioner effective immediately.

Congratulations to all the Leaders and Supporters who received their Good Service Awards at the dinner at Blacktown RSL. A special thank you to Aunty Possum for organising the night. The list of Leaders who are eligible for awards next year, have been given to the District Commissioners for distribution at District Council. Don't forget that the nominations close in February and you will be advised of the closing date in upcoming Bulletins by our Office Manager.

Recently my wife and I spent time in Western Queensland, and it was interesting to see the number of Scout Groups who were fundraising for the Jamboree. We were approached to buy raffle tickets for grocery hampers by a number of Scouts in various towns, and were only too happy to do so. They are looking forward to coming to Sydney in January and should have an excellent time here.

The planning committee for the Big Day In at Bundilla on 1st August 2010 will hold their first meeting soon and so far we have representatives from Joeys, Cubs and Scouts. We are confident that the day will be as successful as our Centenary celebration day was in 2008. Put the date in your diary and don't let your youth members miss out on an unforgettable experience!

Recently a number of Group/Section anniversaries and Presentations have taken place and the matter has been raised about who you should invite to these special occasions. The rule of thumb is that you invite the Region Commissioner, the appropriate sectional Region Commissioner, your District Commissioner and all District Leaders from your District, your Group Leader and office bearers of your Group Committee. It is then your decision as to who else you invite from Scouting and your local community.

The Chief Commissioner has invited me to take on the role of Region Commissioner which I have accepted. I look forward to working with you in the future, to continue to make our membership numbers grow.

Neville Henderson



McHAPPY DAY ***14TH NOVEMBER 2009***

Scouts Australia joins forces with Ronald McDonald House Charities to raise funds for seriously ill children and their families.

100% of the money raised on the day goes to RMHC.

Scout Groups are needed to collect money on the day, in any one of the 750+ McDonalds Restaurants across Australia. In return Groups have the perfect opportunity to promote Scouting in their community. All participants will earn a special camp blanket badge.

Offer your help to any Scout Groups who have volunteered to take part in McHappy Day and encourage all your youth members and their families and friends to visit their local McDonalds on McHappy Day.



SENIOR FIRST AID COURSE

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November 2009

\$85 per person

Closing date 13th November 2009

APPLY NOW

POSSUM'S CORNER

Jan Carter - Region Office Manager

Phone: 9639 2488

Fax: 9686 2510

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



Building and Content Insurance

Has your Group purchased more equipment throughout the year? Then you need to update your inventory for insurance purposes! Remember that, you can increase or decrease your contents, but you cannot alter your building insurance just on the Invoice you receive. If you have reason to believe your building insurance should be reduced, you must first pay the invoiced Asset Management Fee, and then apply for a reduction to State Headquarters, by way of the P6 form on their website.

Some Money Saving tips for your Group

Here is a small check list for you to look at, might help you save some money next year!

- ★ Have you advised your treasurer to close the cash book off on December 31st ready for auditor? Yes/No
- ★ Are you resigning Leaders who have not been active for some time? Use W4 to Region Office. Yes/No
- ★ Have you discussed with layside how you are going to handle 2010 invoices? Yes/No

Census Membership Reports

You will need to be very vigilant early next year attending to the CMR's, especially the February one. A good idea is to attend to the February one, by resigning any youth member who has not returned to the Group. Send it to State HQ at the end of that month. Then, if you get more youth resigning, or they have not paid their 2010/2011 membership fee before a certain date, resign them on a Y7 **and MAKE SURE** you get that form to State HQ **BEFORE** the end of **March**, could I suggest the **27th March**?



www.thescoutsshop.com.au

Due to popular demand, Snowgum, supplier of Scouts Australia uniform product, has launched the Scouts Shop.

The online store is easy to use, convenient and allows for bulk ordering and speedy delivery. It offers a full range of merchandise including uniforms, badges, outdoor equipment and much more.

SPECIAL OFFER

To celebrate the launch of The Scouts Shop, we're offering **FREE SHIPPING** on all purchases. Visit www.thescoutsshop.com.au and enter the code BP at the checkout to take up this offer. But hurry! Free shipping offer ends on November 30th, 2009.



The 2009 Christmas badge is available online now - only \$2.50 each.

**2010 Cumberland Gang Show
CAST AUDITIONS**

Saturday 5th December 2009



Would you like to be part of one of Sydney's biggest musical comedy variety shows, performing on the stage at Parramatta Riverside Theatre for 7,000 people over 10 big days in the July school holidays ?

Then apply online now at www.gangshow.asn.au or complete an application card available from your Leaders or Region Office and post by 27th November 2009.

Late applications may be accepted by calling 9636 7730

REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM

Keith Travers Activity Commissioner

Telephone: 9632-3341

Email: activities@greaterwestscouts.com.au



What a month October has been! Several warnings of bushfires, an evacuation of cub scouts from a caravan park, Port Stephens' camp scare for bushfire and the season has only just started. On our own front we had 91km winds during our sailing course!

Our canoe courses all ran to capacity. We had twenty cubs from 1st North Rocks attend a Canoe Course to gain Cub qualifications and ended up with many of them obtaining a Level 2 qual! Silver Fox has the record for a perfect score (twice) in the theory test but Alister Hayes, a Leader from North Rocks also scored 100% - congratulations. We had perfect conditions at Chipping Norton until the rain arrived on Sunday.

FUN DAY ON THE WATER

13th December 9am to 4pm at Lake Chipping Norton.

Cost is \$5 for everyone attending, please pay at Region Office.

There will be power boats, a jet ski, sailing boats and canoes, but we can only run the event with your help.

- WE NEED PEOPLE TO TOW BOATS FROM BLACKTOWN BOATSHED TO CHIPPING NORTON AND RETURN.
- We need non *boaties* to assist on the beach to organise races and prizes.
- We need food and drink stalls.

Please contact me asap if you can help or need more information. Contact details at top of page.

Rick Jamieson has been running abseil courses and Carey Barlow is planning caving courses and trips, these will be in the new calendar out shortly.

There will be a TAA 301 for training small groups on February 6 and 7. Anyone can apply at Region Office. Cost \$85.

This is a non residential course.

Whatever you do - do it safely! Keith

ROCK RELATED ACTIVITIES

Rick Jamieson Region RRA Co-ordinator

Phone: 4572 1321 (for all enquiries)

Email : rickj15@bigpond.com



New Caving Instructors

Congratulations to our new Caving Instructors, Jim Daines and David (Macca) McKinley. Congratulations also to our new Horizontal Caving Instructor, Meredith Stewart.

Program for 2010

The Rock Program for 2010 is on our rock website. We have added some '*familiarisation*' trips suitable for members of the Scout section, and deleted a couple of the less popular formal courses.

Coming Activities

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

Canyon Trip: Sunday 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.

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



Applications (on the A1 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 course \$5.

***Scout prussiking at
Yellow Rock***

Photo courtesy of Aaron Wardle

RADIO, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

John Leahy

(H) 4572 1549 (W) 8467 3592

john.leahy@measurement.gov.au



JOTA/JOTI 2009 Bases



Karl and I camped with the **Penrith District** at the VRA base at Orchard Hills. About 30 Scouts and 5 Leaders provided food and bases to keep the Scouts busy over the weekend. Radio contacts were found by Carl Harford (VK2HRC) of the Blue Mts A/Radio Club on VHF and Karl

Humphries (VK2HKF) mainly on 40 and 80 metres. The Cubs visited on Sunday to talk on the radios and sample other bases.

I visited other JOTA/JOTI sites on Sunday afternoon. **Kings Langley**, supported by Blue Mts operators, out the back in the Venturer den, **Winston Hills** was having a quiet weekend at their JOTI, and the Guides next door had a hall full of activities and a radio operated by the Guide Leader. **1st Greystanes** was supported by Blue Mts operators on the radio, and a couple of computers on JOTI.



North Rocks had a dozen laptops running JOTI on a wireless Lan network in the main hall. Last year it was a project of one of their Venturers, and was very successful. This year they were having problems, and had just got it rebooted after a short delay, as I arrived.



CQ JOTA was being called from a radio in the back, operated by husband and

wife operators. Back at Penrith JOTA, at least six other members of the Blue Mts A/Radio Club dropped by during the weekend to see how we were going and assisted with the radios. A really active and supportive group, and keen to assist Scouts in any way.

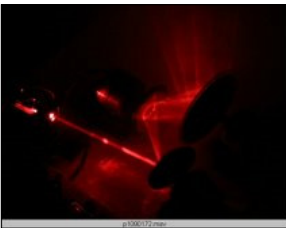
Lasers, Motors and Mirrors

A new addition to the Scout Light night is a Laser show setup using a laser pointer and 3 motors recovered from CD players. The head that holds the CD is a convenient mount for small silvered mirrors. By sanding the plastic head at a shallow angle, the mirror wobbles slightly, reflecting the beam in a circular pattern.

By reflecting this circle onto another wobbling mirror, some interesting patterns are produced. reflecting it again onto a third rotating mirror produces more complex patterns. The trick is to start off with shallow wobbles so that the reflected pattern can be contained on the next mirror.

More variation is introduced by running each motor at various changing speeds, or reversing the direction of rotation of individual mirrors. So now we have a changing pattern of circular shapes containing round blips and squiggles. Interesting for about 2 minutes.

The next (or should it be the first) stage is to attach a mirror to a speaker, connect some music to it so the beam is deflected in time with the tune, that should produce some interesting graphics!



Laser Paths



Laser light show

John Leahy
Karl Humphreys
Andy Walker
Murray Irwin

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karlhumphreys@iprimus.com
awalker@barekoala.net
9868 5559

JOEY SCOUT NOTES

Kathy Cuneo

Region Commissioner Joey Scouts

Email: joeys@greaterwestscouts.com.au



Most Joey Scout mobs have completed the term 3 **Joey Scout Trek About** and we are all just waiting for the badges to arrive.

Term 4 is about Mob Holidays. Mobs from 1st North Rocks, 1st Winston Hills and 1st Cambridge Park recently went to Kariang Scout Camp for the weekend. 25 Joey Scouts and their parents enjoyed the bush of Brisbane Waters National Park and the African Safari themed activities presented by the Leaders.

Mobs from 1st Ermington, 1st Kellyville, 1st Balcombe Heights and 1st Kings Langley will become pirates on their mob holiday at Bundilla at the end of the month.

We hope to have more Leaders do advanced courses so that their mobs can participate in these weekends. It is a great experience for the Joey Scouts, and parents appreciate the opportunity to spend quality time with their child.

Thirteen of the GWSR mobs are taking part in an Australian wide project called Hands Across the Sea. Each mob will be given a mob from overseas to contact. The mobs will be encouraged to exchange programs, photos, and information about their home area. Each mob will be in contact with two other mobs over the next two terms.

A Promise Challenge badge was awarded to Jack Maddock. Congratulations Jack, I know that you will wear your badge with pride.



Congratulations to Joey Scout

Jack Maddock - 1st Blaxland Taipan Pack

who has earned his Promise Challenge Badge.

Hop

Hop

Hop



VENTURER REPORT

Aaron Wardle RC Venturer Scouts

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Recruitment from the Scout section continues to remain a high priority across the Region as we prepare for the post Jamboree migration.

During the last school holidays a letter was sent to all 14 year old Scouts promoting Venturers, as well as inviting them to Waratah. All units are making an effort to visit each of the Scout troops in the Region as well.

Our annual Waratah camp is now just days away and with record attendance, the organising team are looking forward to an absolutely excellent weekend. Thank you to all of the Scout Leaders who have supported this event by encouraging their Scouts to enjoy a preview of the Venturer section.

Finally, it is with great pleasure that I can confirm that Matthew Mills from 1st Dural has now completed his Queen's Scout Award. Through a wide variety of activities, Matthew has demonstrated huge commitment and enthusiasm in maximising his involvement in the Scout program and he is to be congratulated on his efforts. Well done Matthew.



Congratulations and Best Wishes to

Matthew Mills

1st Dural Venturer Unit

Who has earned his Queen's Scout Award

Bravo - Well done

TRAINING TALK

Ann Pounder

Region Commissioner ATD

Email: training@greaterwestscouts.com.au



WHAT IS A PERSONAL LEADER ADVISER (PLA) AND WHAT IS THEIR ROLE IN SCOUTS?

A PLA is someone who is experienced and respected in their relevant appointment; they must hold a Wood Badge and must have completed a Training of Trainers Part 4 course.

Completion of this course does not guarantee one's appointment as a PLA. An application process needs to be followed after completing the course. Please contact the RC AT&D or District Leader Training for further details.

The role of the PLA is to welcome, encourage and assist new Leaders. They are there to help guide the trainees through their Basic training and encourage them to go on to complete their Advanced Training.

They should be a mentor and a friend to new Leaders. An information source, outside of their own Group, whom the new Leader can seek advice from.

PLA's are expected to do more than just supervise inservice. The PLA is usually there for the whole time the Leader remains in Scouting.

When new Leaders undertake Inservice training, they are normally sent to another Group with experienced Leaders in the relevant section. One of these experienced Leaders will be in charge of the Inservice Training and this person will be seen as a mentor, ***but they MAY NOT be an appointed PLA***.

JOTA/JOTI AT 1ST GREYSTANES SCOUT GROUP

John Allan (Taipan) ASL 1st Greystanes

Treasurer Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

1st Greystanes successfully conducted their first JOTA/JOTI base this year, after fire destroyed the nearby Guildford Scout Hall, which housed a lot of the radio and computer equipment for JOTA.

We set up Radio, IRLP, Echolink and the ever popular Computer chat and were well supported by operators from the Blue Mts Amateur Radio Club. A number of Scouts and Cubs camped overnight, to gain skills in Campcraft and nights under canvas.



Activities were set up by the District Seeonee for any visiting Cub Scout to gain their Codes and Signals badge. Cubs also spoke on radio and via computer to earn their JOTA/JOTI badge.



Jarrold Allan, a 1st Greystanes Scout (VK2FEEL) has his Scout Radio Operators Badge and is pictured using a Rig (radio) setup for VHF 2m operations. It was used to make local contacts and overseas contact via IRLP. The conditions didn't suit overseas contacts this year, however we did very well with HF (mainly

on 40m) contacts from Victoria, NSW, SA and Qld. Not all of the contacts were Scouts; we had QSO's (conversations) with regular Radio Amateurs as well. The local contacts on 2m were too numerous to list but between Rhodd (VK2TTL), Jarrod and myself (VK2FSF) we kept the radio going pretty much all weekend.

Jarrold did a lot of the work with individual Scouts assisting them to complete the Communications Badge and the Technology Badge. Over the weekend, 9 Scouts gained the Communications Badge and 7 Scouts the Technology Badge..



Here I am on the HF Rig used to make interstate contacts. Overall, a great weekend!

SCOUTS LEARN VALUABLE SKILLS ON THE WATER

Joanne Hrast (Bagheera) ACSL 1st North Rocks

Living in Australia, we are blessed with wonderful weather that allows us to enjoy activities both in and on the water. However, it is a sobering reminder of the dangers that exist, when we hear of the many boating accidents and drownings that occur.

In the GWSR we are extremely fortunate to have a Water Activity Team of volunteers who are professional instructors. The Team can help all Groups and sections with water based activities ranging from familiarisation days to course qualifications and adventure trips away. Water activities include canoeing, kayaking, sailing,



dinghy's and power boating with optional water skiing. The Team is happy to go to Group activities and run courses for them. There are many Groups in NSW that do not have such a team locally and they have to travel to Sydney for that which we are lucky enough to have right here on our doorstep!



Recently 1st North Rocks Group completed a two day course qualification at Chipping Norton Lakes. On Saturday we were blessed with perfect weather and had the park and lake to ourselves. The participants ranged in age from Cub Scouts through to Leaders qualifying. All aspects of canoeing were taught from paddling the canoe,

through to deep water rescues. On Sunday, the weather deteriorated and in the more challenging conditions, we were able to test out the skills we had gained the previous day!



On December 13th, the Water Activity Team will hold their annual Water Fun Day at Chipping Norton Lakes. This is my favourite event on the yearly calendar and is a day not to be missed. I can now go along with my Pack, more confident that our Cubs can have fun on the water, but stay safe, armed with

the valuable life skills they have gained during the course. If you are interested in organising a water based activity, Keith Travers is more than willing to assist. Contact him on 9632 3341 or activities@greaterwestscouts.com.au

JOEY SCOUTS VISIT FIRE STATION
Fred Pollock (Emu) JSL 2nd Kings Langley

2nd Kings Langley Joey Scout Mob recently visited their local Fire Station at Seven Hills, where they presented the crew with a wall hanging in the theme of *Help Other People*. The Joeys really enjoyed listening to the siren and their favourite part of the night was using the fire hose!



*Looks like the
Furies polished up
their fire truck
especially for the
Joeys visit!*

HOLROYD DISTRICT CUB SCOUTS - OUT & ABOUT

Anne Thompson (Wontolla) Holroyd DLCS

On Sunday, 1st November, a Group of over forty Cub Scout Leaders, Cub Scouts, Parents and Siblings from Holroyd District set out for a day trip to Berry Island, as part of *Out and About Month* for Cub Packs.

We travelled by train to Wollstonecraft, stopped in the nearby park for morning tea and then set out to explore the beautiful pocket of lush, cool, rainforest. As we emerged from the rainforest, we had a postcard perfect view of Berry Island and surrounding harbour basked in glorious sunshine. After the essential pit stop we headed



for a small beach, where the cubs played in the water, collected shells, built sand castles and got to know each other. They all got on remarkably well and the interaction was good to see.

Eventually, it was time to get dressed and set out to explore historic Berry Island. The small island was originally an area for local Aboriginal communities to camp and eat and is now a nature reserve and one of the best examples of remnant, indigenous bushland.

We headed along the bush trail, an easy twenty minute walk around the island, with signs detailing the island's Aboriginal and European history and wonderful views across the water. Shell middens and axe grindings are still visible today, as evidence of the Aboriginal way of life.



We stopped at the Aboriginal carvings for lunch, some fun environmental activities and some group photos. After completing the trail, the cubs took over the excellent bush playground which includes

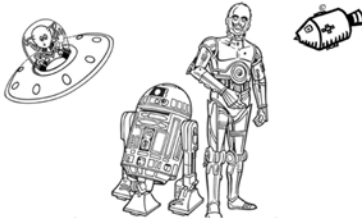
swings, slides, climbing walls and a spider's web climber, all set under a massive fig tree. The adults also enjoyed some time out - chatting, reading or sleeping!



Following another pit stop we slowly walked up the steep hill to the train station. The cubs were very quiet on the homeward journey and I'm sure they all slept very well that night. All in all, a great day out and a very pleasant way for the participants to gain a special badge!

Sci Fi Sydney

This November, come and see your favourite robots and science fiction characters while supporting Bear Cottage with a gold coin donation



DRIVE A ROBOT
SCI-FI TRIVIA COMPETITIONS
SPACESHIP BATTLE HIGHSCORE
PHOTOS WITH YOUR
FAVOURITE ROBOTS AND
CHARACTERS
and MUCH MORE



21-22 NOVEMBER, 2009

10am - 3pm

Dougherty Community Centre
7 Victor Street, Chatswood, NSW



www.scifisydney.info

Inaugural Sci Fi Sydney Charity Fundraiser

November 21st & 22nd
10am to 3pm

Dougherty Community Centre
Chatswood

Gold coin donation entry

All proceeds to Bear Cottage
an initiative of
Westmead Children's Hospital

- ★ Have your photo taken with legendary Sci-Fi Characters including R2D2, Darth Vader, a Dr Who Dalek and K9!
- ★ Supervised Children will be able to drive an R2D2 around the hall!
- ★ Sausage sizzle available for sale at lunchtime.
- ★ Other exhibits, include various Sci-Film movie props, robots and models.
- ★ Great day out for families
- ★ Visit www.scifisydney.info for further details.

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