

# The Bulletin

*Journal of the Greater Western Sydney Region*



## **Venturing Out**

**Sunday 5th July 2009**

**10.00 am – 4.00 pm**

**George Kendall Riverside Park  
Ermington**

No. 363 February 2009



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For the Red Shield Appeal 2009, The Salvation Army is asking for 100, 000 volunteers and would once again like to invite Scouts Australia NSW to help them make a difference by supporting and participating. Cubs, Scouts, Venturer, Rovers and Leaders get involved and can earn community service for their award schemes such as the Boomerangs, Citizenship, Australian Scout Medallion, Queen's Scout Award and the Baden-Powell Award. Getting involved is easy. If your Group would like to volunteer, please visit <http://salvos.org.au/red-shield-appeal/> or call 13 SALVOS.



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](mailto:anne.dlcs@gmail.com)

## ***FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER***

***Jan Playford***



Happy New Year to you all.

We are already into February and the Scouting year is off to a great start. Our numbers are the highest we have had for some years and I am positive we will continue this way. This has been a collaborative effort from everyone in this Region and I thank each and everyone of you, for your dedication.

We had two people honoured in local government ceremonies. Taylor Paige from 2<sup>nd</sup> Baulkham Hills Rover Crew received Young Citizen of the Year from Baulkham Hills Council and Bruce Roberts from 1<sup>st</sup> Granville received Holroyd City Council Citizen of the Year. My congratulations to you both.

We held a Region Team day the end of January which was well attended. Many topics were covered and the feedback has been very positive. From discussion, it seems that some information is still not getting out. This is the reason we have this magazine and the website as an adjunct to our normal lines of communication – District Councils and District Training Meetings. If you do not go to these meetings, yes, you are missing out on information. We had some very interesting and at times lively discussions on the day and if your Group had representation I am sure your rep will be passing on what they learned.

I presented the State strategic plan for the coming three years to the attendees and this produced some positive discussion. The plan will be going out to all members through the State as well as Region and District meetings. I feel very positive about the plan and the Region will be working to achieve the goals.

Within the plan is the States new motto – “Building a Better Future Today”. This will be used on all correspondence, advertising etc. What will your group do, to achieve this?

I am ever mindful that it is a Jamboree year and groups will be focusing on fundraising for this, however don't forget the other sections and their needs.

At the time of writing I have, unfortunately received two resignations. One from Mark Absalom (RCVS), and one from Col Nichols (Region Chair). Mark has decided to take a break from Scouting and Col has decided that a non uniform role isn't "his cup of tea". Col is an Honorary Commissioner and will continue to take an active role on the uniform side doing projects for the Region. I would like to thank both for their dedicated work and hope that Mark has a wonderful break and will come back to a role of his choosing in the future. I will be looking to fill these roles as soon as possible. The Region Venturer Council will be discussing the way forward for the Venturer section.

As I said in my opening, we are off and running and already I have been faced with some challenges that with your help we will overcome. Remember the State's motto ***Building a Better Future Today?*** Jan the Elder has come up with one of her own - ***Do It or Ditch It!*** and this is the attitude we will certainly be adopting in this Region. We have many unfinished projects that need to be completed - we will get them done or we will ditch them.

*Thought for the month:*

**Hold fast, stand firm.  
Don't just do the done thing, do the right thing.**



**1st Austinmer Scout Hall** situated at 20 Moore St in picturesque Austinmer NSW (20 km north of Wollongong), is available for overnight/weekend hire for cubs and scouts at only \$5 pp per night. The hall has hot and cold showers, toilets, a kitchen and a bbq. The Railway Station is just at the end of Moore St.

The beach lies 100 metres to the east. For bushwalking, a path starting 300 metres to the west climbs through the Illawarra rainforest right to the top of the escarpment.

**For bookings contact Ron Witton  
0409 399 752 or [rwitton@uow.edu.au](mailto:rwitton@uow.edu.au)**



## ***POSSUM'S CORNER***

*Jan Carter - Region Office*

*Phone: 9639 2488 Fax: 9686 2510*

*Email: [gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au)*



### ***Now is the time to clear up a few financial issues:***

Each month, when I get a trial balance I notice many Groups have long outstanding, unpaid invoices. I can only assume they are for new members who joined throughout the year (some still owe annual membership fees from 2008). In April you will be issued with the 2009/10 Membership Fees, this will not show any outstanding money, so I would urge you to pay up now, clear all debts and in future pay invoices on time. It should never be said that the Group does not have the money; parents should pay the joining fee and membership fee before the youth is invested. The money should be banked and the invoice paid immediately upon receipt - it must not be used for anything else within the Group. Below is a list of all Groups/Crews with outstanding amounts, BUT there will be a run of invoices 31st January so you might receive another one (if any Groups have paid the outstanding amounts please disregard this notice and thank you).

1st Blaxland Venturer Unit	\$10.98
1st Kurrajong	\$238.50
1st Glossodia	\$301
1st Baulkham Hills Rover Crew	\$78
Nepean Rover Crew	\$158
Pinnaroo Fellowship	\$52
(Treasurer please try again with State)	
3rd Merrylands	\$549
1st Pendle Hill	\$78
1st Rydalmere	\$318
1st Winston Hills	\$580
Kings Langley Rover Crew	\$58
1st Springwood	\$998
1st Emu Plains	\$98
1st Penrith	\$78.50
1st South Penrith	\$800
1st St Marys	\$1,078.50
2nd Baulkham Hills	\$110
1st Murray Farm	\$1,638

***It's time to put your heads down and get cracking on the all important preparation for your Group AGM !!***

- Make sure your books are audited and ready for presentation at the AGM
- Make sure all your members are staying on. If not, resign them BEFORE 31st March '09.
- Make sure your Leaders are still committed to your Group. If not, resign them at the **BEGINNING** of **March**. Send the W4 form to Region Office.
- Make sure your Treasurer has sent invoices out to parents.
- Group/Fellowship AGM's are to be held, no earlier than the 15th April and no later than the 5th May.
- When you receive your pack from your District Commissioner, please open it and start working on it straight away. Don't leave it until your AGM.
- All cheques to be given to the Representative at the meeting and this includes your membership fees and outstanding invoices.
- **Do not** send cheques direct to State or Willis.
- ***If you need help - ask me!***



*Congratulations to our Scouting Family members and friends who were recognised for their service to the community by their local Councils on Australia Day.*

- ◆ Bruce Roberts CSL 1st Granville was awarded Citizen of the Year by Holroyd City Council.
- ◆ Taylor Page Rover 2nd Baulkham Hills was awarded Young Citizen of the Year by Baulkham Hills Shire Council.
- ◆ Harry Anderson Group Chairman 1st North Mt Druitt was nominated for Blacktown City Council Citizen of the Year.

## ***FIRST AID COURSES FOR 2009***



Considering that we have a Jamboree coming up in 2010 - wouldn't this be a good time to gain or renew your First Aid qualifications. *Remember - BE PREPARED!*

### **Senior First Aid Course Dates:**

March 7th & 8th	closing date	20th Feb
July 4th & 5th	closing date	19th June
September 5th & 6th	closing date	21st August
November 28th & 29th	closing date	13th November

Cost TBA - I think it will still be \$85 or maybe a slight price rise.

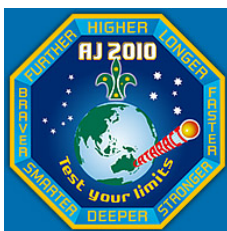
### **One Day Requalification Courses:**

14th February, 16th May, 14th August, 17th October.

You must have a current (not expired) First Aid Certificate in order to do this course. We are trialing these courses and we need a minimum of 10 people for the course to run.

Cost \$75 for Scouts and \$105 for non Scouts

**Forms and money into Region Office two weeks in advance.**



## **AJ2010 International**

Scouts from many countries will be coming to Sydney for AJ2010.

Your Scout Group or your own family can have a great experience, by volunteering to host these visiting Scouts before or after the Jamboree and show them our wonderful city, beaches and other attractions. Your Troop can also have an international Patrol and Leaders, camp with you at the Jamboree. Are you interested? Discuss the idea with your Troop, Group or family.

**For further details contact;**

Sam Wood

Deputy Director International AJ2010

[wood999@bigpond.com](mailto:wood999@bigpond.com)

## APPOINTMENTS LIST

### December 2008



#### APPOINTMENTS

BELCHER, Mark	Fr	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Emu Plains Group
	To	GL	1 <sup>st</sup> Emu Plains Group
BLADES Mark	Fr	JSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Pendle Hill Mob
	To	JSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Toongabbie Mob
BRODRICK, Melissa	Fr	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Blaxland Group
	To	AJSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Blaxland Mob
BRUIN Thomas	Fr	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Blaxland Group
	To	ASL	1 <sup>st</sup> Blaxland Troop
CHISHOLM William	Fr	AL	1/2 <sup>nd</sup> Merrylands
	To	ASL	1/2 <sup>nd</sup> Merrylands
CONNOR Glenn	Fr	AL	1/2 <sup>nd</sup> Blacktown
	To	ASL	1/2 <sup>nd</sup> Blacktown Troop
CROSS Heath	Fr	VSL	Woolahra/Paddington Unit
	To	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Toongabbie Group
CROSS, Patricia	Fr	SL	Woolahra/Paddington Troop
	To	ASL	1 <sup>st</sup> Toongabbie Troop
DARRAGH Terrence	Fr	RA	Blaxland/Kalangadoo
	To	AVSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Blaxland Unit
HUTHNANCE Jennifer	Fr	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Springwood Group
	To	AVSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Springwood Unit
JENKINSON Andrew	Fr	CSL	2 <sup>nd</sup> Castle Hill Pack
	To	ACSL	2 <sup>nd</sup> Castle Hill Pack
MASSIE Gary	Fr	SL	1 <sup>st</sup> Balcombe Heights Troop
	To	ASL	1 <sup>st</sup> Balcombe Heights Troop
MEAD, Kylie	Fr	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Kings Langley Group
	To	ASL	1 <sup>st</sup> Kings Langley Troop
OWEN Andrew	Fr	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Castle Hill Group
	To	ASL	1 <sup>st</sup> Castle Hill Troop
ROBERTS Craig	Fr	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> North Rocks Group
	To	ACSL	1st North Rocks Pack
SLENDER Lyvern	Fr	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Kurrajong Group
	To	ACSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Kurrajong Pack

SPALDING Maurice	Fr	GL	1 <sup>st</sup> Penrith Group
	To	AGL	1 <sup>st</sup> Penrith Group
STAELENS, Jean-Pierre	Fr	ASL	1 <sup>st</sup> Balcombe Heights Troop
	To	SL	1 <sup>st</sup> Balcombe Heights Troop
SULLIVAN Alison	Fr	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Quakers Hill-Doonside
	To	ACSL	1 <sup>st</sup> QH-Doonside Pack
TALLIS, Brett	Fr	ACSL	2 <sup>nd</sup> Castle Hill Pack
	To	CSL	2 <sup>nd</sup> Castle Hill Pack
TOTONJIAN Serena	Fr	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Carlingford Group
	To	ASL	1 <sup>st</sup> Carlingford Troop
WHEAT Adam	Fr	ASL	1 <sup>st</sup> Hazelbrook Troop
	To	AVSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Hazelbrook Unit
WHITE, Sidney	Fr	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> St Marys Group
	To	ACSL	1 <sup>st</sup> St Marys Pack

### **RESIGNATIONS**

ABBOTT Phillip		AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Wentworthville
ABBOTT Samantha		AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Wentworthville
BONNER Richard		AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Hazelbrook
BOWEN Rishaf		ACSL	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kings Langley Pack
CHENG, Agosto		AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Carlingford
HO Shirley		AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Carlingford
LANCASTER Hugh		AL	1 <sup>st</sup> QH-Doonside Group
MICALLEF Shannon		ASL	1 <sup>st</sup> Dural troop
TARANTO Christopher		AL	1 <sup>st</sup> QH-Doonside Group

### **TRAINEE LEADERS NOT PROCEEDING**

ARNOLD Timothy	Trainee JS	1 <sup>st</sup> Dural
CROSSTHWAITE Jessica	Trainee S	1 <sup>st</sup> Hawkesbury
CURRIE Danielle	Trainee JS	1 <sup>st</sup> Hazelbrook
KEEDLE Warren	Trainee CS	1 <sup>st</sup> Hazelbrook
PARNELL Jivan	Trainee JS	1 <sup>st</sup> Castle Hill
SINTON Lara	Trainee JS	1 <sup>st</sup> Hazelbrook
SMITH Stuart	Trainee AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Hazelbrook

## Appointments List continued;

### DEREGISTRATIONS

- 1<sup>ST</sup> Blaxcell Cub Pack
- 1<sup>st</sup> Blaxcell Scout Troop
- 1<sup>st</sup> Blaxcell Scout Group
- 1<sup>st</sup> Kurrajong Joey Mob
- 1<sup>st</sup> Kurrajong Scout Troop
- 1<sup>st</sup> Penrith Cub Pack
- 1<sup>st</sup> South Penrith Venturer Unit

## ***TRADIES MOOT - HAVE A CRACKER OF A TIME***

presented by **Berowra Rover Crew**

**March 13th to 15th**

@ at 'Lemon Orchards' (30 mins Northwest of Hornsby).

**Cost:** \$30 prepaid, \$35 at the door

For more info, ticket sales, or to just say hello;

visit [www.rovers.berowra.net/summermoot](http://www.rovers.berowra.net/summermoot)

email [summermoot@sydneynorthscouts.com](mailto:summermoot@sydneynorthscouts.com)

or call Pete on 0404 193 952

**BEROWRA ROVERS**  
**Presents**

**TRADIES**  
**Moot**  
**2009**

**March 13-15th**  
*Have a Crack-er of a time!*

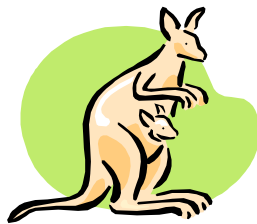
[www.rovers.berowra.net/summermoot](http://www.rovers.berowra.net/summermoot)

## ***JOEY SCOUT NOTES***

*Kathy Cuneo*

*Region Commissioner Joey Scouts*

*New email: [kmcuneo@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kmcuneo@optusnet.com.au)*



Our first Wandarrah meeting for 2009 will be held on Friday 20th February at Bundilla commencing at 7:30 pm. We hope to see as many Leaders as possible, as this is the major planning meeting for the Joey Scout Fun Day planned for the 31st May. Wandarrah is also the place to network with other Leaders, both old and new, from your District or the Region.

This year the Joey Scout section plans to get outdoors more often, and the first activity planned is the Joey Scout Fun Day on the Water on March 22nd. This is a follow up to the enjoyment those who attended the Region Water Fun Day experienced and is offering the opportunity to attend, for those mobs who were unable to come due to other commitments. The Fun Day will be held at Angle Park, Chipping Norton.

As Leaders are planning for the new term - we hope they are remembering our great Joey website with its many ideas.

Visit [www.gwsjoeys.org.au](http://www.gwsjoeys.org.au)

Other relevant information can be found on the Region website [www.greaterwestscouts.com.au](http://www.greaterwestscouts.com.au)



*Joey Scouts having  
fun in the water  
at the  
Region Water Fun  
Day in December.*

# *HARMONY DAY*

## *21/3/2009*



Scouts Australia, Girl Guides Australia, Woolworths/Safeway and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship have built a mutually beneficial partnership over the past five years, celebrating and promoting Harmony Day. **Harmony Day 2009, Saturday 21 March**, will be no exception.

Please note that the process has changed slightly, with Scouts and Girl Guides working together in their local community to build a personal relationship with their local Woolworths/Safeway store:

In 2009, Scouts and Girl Guides will **approach the store in their local area directly**.

Woolworth's store managers will be aware that they may be approached by local Scout and/or Guide Groups, to seek their support for a local Harmony Day event in their store, and discuss their ideas for celebrations and promotions.

**Please note: It is each store manager's choice as to whether they involve their store or not, as any involvement will need to be funded from their individual store's budget.**

If your local store has already been approached by another Group, look at another local store or find a nearby store which does not have local Scouts and Guides in the area, and help build community links within this area.

When you have confirmed an event with your store, please advise the State Office by email: [harmonyday@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:harmonyday@nsw.scouts.com.au) - of the type of event your Group is staging and at which particular store.

Scout and Guide Groups will then need to order promotional materials for the event directly from [www.harmony.gov.au](http://www.harmony.gov.au).

This is an excellent opportunity to build your relationship with your local store, or to develop a new community relationship of benefit into the future. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the State Office on 9735 9000. Please ask for the Harmony Day Coordinator.

***To help you organise a Harmony Day event for you Group, here is a list of the stores and their managers in the GWSR.***

<b><u>Store</u></b>	<b><u>Manager</u></b>	<b><u>Telephone</u></b>
<b>WOOLWORTHS</b>		
Baulkham Hills	Graham Jack	9639 5311
Westpoint Blacktown	Michael Collorafi	9621 5433
Carlingford Court	Kyle Austin	9872 5177
Round Corner Dural	Alex Dingemans	9653 9385
Emu Plains	Glenda Kastler	4735 1501
Ermington	Phil Walker	9638 0527
Glenmore Park	Geoff Hillier	4733 5300
Glenwood	Matthew Walsh	9629 8700
Granville	Tim Chung	9897 5988
Greystanes	Ian Ferreira	9636 2288
Kellyville	Rebecca Stebbings	8824 4201
Kings Langley	Michael Chacksfield	9838 8866
Marayong	Ken Spencer	9626 8433
Norwest	Casey Schulte	8814 5211
Pemulwuy	Stephen Doonan	9896 4678
Penrith Plaza	Kevin Ispirto	4721 7455
Plumpton Market Place	Graeme Bassam	9832 2711
Prospect	Steven Holmes	9621 6788
Richmond	Gerry Kuiper	4588 6557
Rosehill	Garry Dillon	9891 9288
Rouse Hill Town Centre	Justin Gregory	9836 0122
Seven Hills	Eddie Picinin	9671 2999
St Clair	Tony Corelli	9834 3422
St Marys	Peter Thompson	9833 7944
Toongabbie	David Crellin	9636 5797
Wentworthville GWH	Brett Workman	9636 8722
Westfield Parramatta	Nelson Camacho	9891 6736
Westfield Mt Druitt	Carmelo Bruno	9625 7333
Winston Hills	Michelle Olesen	9838 9877
<b>FLEMINGS</b>		
Pendle Hill	Kevin Villanueva	9631 0325



## ROCKET night at Kellyville Scouts

Our last activity in December was with 1<sup>st</sup> Kellyville Cubs and Scouts at Bernie Mullane Sports Field. A couple of weeks before the activity, their Leader emailed to ask if I had any mechanism involving rockets they could use in a going-up ceremony

for a couple of their Cubs. I had seen a Uni demonstration of Newton's Laws involving a trolley propelled by a CO<sub>2</sub> extinguisher. At work we have a few old extinguishers for training, and a staff member had retrieved a small trolley from the skip, so in short time I had the rocket propelled trolley you see here. The cylinder was firmly attached to the trolley so that all



reaction forces were transferred to the trolley. A test beforehand had shown that enough thrust is delivered to accelerate the trolley to a walking pace. The Cubs had their Rocket activity night first, and at dusk the Scouts arrived for the going up ceremony. A Scout was the pilot of the

trolley and he knelt facing the back, controlling the thrust. The Cub stood holding the handle facing the direction of travel. A cord was attached to the back and held loosely by another Scout to act as a brake at the other end. Both wore helmets and the Scout ear protectors. I think it is fair to say that all were impressed by the noise and large plume of white exhaust, as the Cub arrived, self propelled at the Scouts. Possibly a going-up to remember, and the Scout pilot obviously enjoyed the ride as well.



## HOVER - A New Program

Some groups have invited us so often that they have seen all our established programs, so it was time to develop new programs.

I have been looking at a program that involves transport vehicles and how they move - land vehicles on wheels, driven by - motors, springs, rubber bands, air propellers, compressed air; land vehicles that float above the ground -hovercraft, magnetic levitation, electrostatics; fly in the air - wings, helicopters, Helium & Hot air balloons; vehicles that move on and in water - are a bit of a problem to demonstrate.

My mind was made up when I discovered a design for a cheap Hovercraft to lift a person so they felt they were floating, that was easily transportable, **and** an economical toy hovercraft to take home. I have called it **HOVER** (but Floating and Levitation came to mind). Here's a brief outline of the night for **Cubs**. Start with a short discussion on friction. We try rubbing different materials together to get a feel for the effort required and the heat created. Next onto land vehicles, as the Cubs try to pull each other around on a flat board, the same board with skids, then rollers and finally wheels. An air Puck is shown and they discover how it works, so we look at different ways of low friction movement including Aeroplane wings, Propeller stick, Helium or Hot air Balloons, Magnetic Levitation and Electrostatic repulsion. The Cubs make a simple CD/ balloon hovercraft and we race them down a slope. *Now* they get to ride the hovercraft, experience acceleration and the difficulty of stopping with no friction, as well as the centripetal force of circular motion and spinning on the spot. For **Scouts & Venturers** we could confirm Newton's laws of motion, look at constant velocity and accelerate movement using a simple accelerometer, experiment with transferring momentum by throwing a bowling ball to the hovercraft rider, and the 'spinning skater' effect on a rotating hovercraft rider.



### **A Hundred more Kids**

This time of year I review where we have been, who we have seen and who we have missed, so we can plan to fill the gaps. Last year we saw an additional 100 youth on week night programs, than in 2007. This was mainly *due to the effort that you the Leaders* put into arranging two sections on the one night. I realise that this is sometimes difficult to arrange with sections meeting on different nights, but it does allow us to reach more scouts with only one long-night-out per week for us.

### **Radio, Science & Technology**

Matt Thompson has done a great job of putting our activity information on the web. I will supply him with more details that may be of interest. Is there anything you are particularly interested in? Meanwhile have a look through this direct link: <http://www.greaterwestscouts.com.au/site/activities/radio-science-technology>

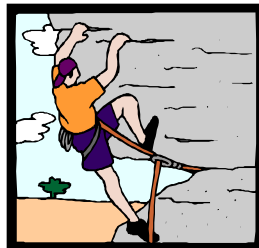
John Leahy	(H) 4572 1549 (W) 8467 3592 john.leahy@nmi.gov.au
Karl Humphreys	karlhumphreys@iprimus.com
Andy Walker	Awalker@barekoala.net
Murray Irwin	9868 5559

## ***ROCK RELATED ACTIVITIES***

*Rick Jamieson Region RRA Co-ordinator*

*Phone: 4572 1321*

*New Email : rickj15@bigpond.com*



### **Basic Rock Skills**

It seems that NSW Rock Activities policy has changed a bit. There is no longer a *Rockcraft* qualification - instead there is a **Basic Rock Skills Qualification** which must be obtained before attempting to qualify (for example) as an Abseiler. The Basic Rock Skills can be achieved with a night's instruction in a Scout Hall. The skills include knots, standard communications, taking care of equipment, how to set up an abseil rope, how to coil a rope and how to belay. Since most of our courses start with a night's *theory* instruction, the new rules will not make a great difference.

### **Canyon Trips**

Our summer canyon trips for Scouts have again proved to be very popular and successful. With opportunities to get wet, swim and fall in, what Scout wouldn't enjoy them ?

### **Rock Info**

The 'Rock Info' page on our website has been re-written to make things clearer for Scouts starting Rock Activities.

### **Coming Activities**

**Abseil (Rockcraft) Courses:** Tues. 14<sup>th</sup> April (theory at Bundilla) and 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April (practical at Bowen Mtn. and Yellow Rock). Also 19<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May.

**Canyon Course:** Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> and Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> March. Juggler and Grand Canyons on the Saturday, Serendipity on the Sunday. Camp out at Mt. Wilson. (Abseiling experience required)

**Caving Trip:** Sat. 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. and Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> Mar. Location to be determined (contact Carey Barlow).

**Caving Course:** Tues. 28<sup>th</sup> April (theory at Bundilla), 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May (practical at Bungonia).

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

**Scout Top-Rope Climbing Badge Course:** 26<sup>th</sup> (theory) and 28<sup>th</sup> (practical) June.

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

Applications (on the A1 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.

**Other enquiries:** Rick Jamieson 4572 1321.

**See our website:** [www.beprepared.com.au/gws](http://www.beprepared.com.au/gws)



**Haydn Apps from 1st Winston Hills Scout Troop  
jumping in at Deep Pass Canyon on the GWSR Trip  
December 2008.**

*Photo courtesy of Lindsay McEwan*

## **REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM**

*Keith Travers Activity Commissioner*

9632-3341

*kctrav@internode.on.net*



I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas break. We did - when you have 10 grandchildren, two less than two years, one only three months, Grandmas like to spend a lot of time with them. Our problem is one family is at Newcastle and one at Katoomba so we do a lot of kms. A really worthwhile exercise and a lot of fun too!

How about our family Fun Day on the Water. The wind blew in gusts, so some people had good sailing and others FAST SAILING. We had some damage to our sailing boats - four sails needed repair by our friendly sail maker Keith Brown at Mortlake (he only charged us \$50)! The Seabird sustained more serious damage and this will take longer to repair.

How about the canoe races with parents, Joeys, Cubs and Leaders? The lolly scramble certainly got the kids' interest. The weather was good but a bit windy, so we cancelled the sailing races. 1st Ermington ran the sausage sizzle and drinks and I believe did very well. There were over 200 registered and about 300 turned up. Thank you to all those Leaders, parents and Venturers who helped. BRAVO from all the kids.

We have already been asked to do this again next December. Perhaps you could use this as your end of year function with your parents as many Groups did last year.

Also I need to thank Fred and Therese Kaltenbacher who ran a tree climbing activity and abseil for little kids. Quite a lot of spectators wanted to join in and we were unable to control the crowd of non scouts.

We had an increase in boating during 2008 the Year of the Scout - let's make sure that we keep the kids interest with exciting trips or activities.

Remember all Level 2 people can go on a trip together but a level 3 person is needed if level 1 are involved. We run courses all the

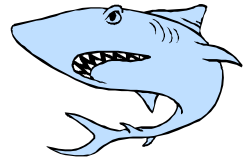
year for canoe, sail and power boating. This allows people to get out and be active.

Check the website for the Activity Calendar. Some courses are already booked, so ring and check the availability. We may be able to run extra courses if you have enough people wanting to do a particular course. Please ring Keith Travers on 9632 3341 to discuss your needs.



Remember to slip, slap, slop.

There are sharks about, so only swim between the flags.



## ***STOP PRESS***

Further to the notes written by Warwick Bateman, the A1 form will be the only form used for all activities and courses. Course fees will be paid to Region Office, two weeks prior to an event, along with A1 pages 1 and 2, completed and signed. The Rock and Water forms will cease immediately. A list of people going on an activity will need to be forwarded to the Home Leader, local LAC, Activity Commissioner and LAC where the activity is to take place.

### **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 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009**.
- No late applications will be considered.

**Col Nicholas**, Chairman - Tony Balthasar Jamboree Fund

## ***1ST ST MARY'S SCOUT GROUP HIKE***

*by Rodney Lean GL (Kanga)*

On Sunday December 14, a small walking party from 1st St Marys set out on a two hour hike that was planned by Evan (a Sixer from white six). Preparing a hike is one of the activities that Cub Scouts must do to achieve their Grey Wolf (the highest award a Cub Scout can earn).

Evan spent a great deal of time preparing for this walk by investigating numerous routes and the costs involved in getting to the location, reviewing maps of the area to see what was involved and putting together an detailed equipment list so that all who participated were well prepared.



Starting at the top of Karloo Track (next to the Heathcote RFS station) in the Royal National Park, the track took the walking party along a ridge, before descending into a gorge. Along the way the group had to climb over small rocks, walk along a

small rock edge (only a couple of metres high but was a great thrill for the youth), climb under fallen trees, walk past some thrilling look outs, plus have a quick photo in a small rock cave.



The group walked along Karloo Track until they reached Karloo pool. After an hours walking the kids couldn't wait to have a swim, changing and entering the water with much excitement. Following a swim in what could only be described as very clear and very 'fresh' water, they hopped out for a bite of lunch and some time to dry off.



After lunch, they all donned dry clothes for the arduous hike out of the gorge. The incline was challenging, but after the 20 continuous minutes walking up the steep gradient, they stopped at a nice vantage point for 10 minutes to have a cool drink of water, a few

bickies and readied themselves for the return to the starting point. A few scrapes and scratches were experienced along the way but all in all a great time was had by everyone. On arriving back at the hall there were reports of some very quiet return trips, as it seems many of the youth members took the opportunity to have a nap! **1-2-3-WOOF** to Evan for planning and executing a fantastic hike. He displayed great leadership skills and a willingness to refer to his map to recheck compass bearings as the walk progressed.



I would also like to thank those parent helpers, who came along to provide assistance as needed. **GREAT WORK - Thank you.**



The bushfires in Victoria have taken a terrible toll on the lives of many Australians and their families and I know that Scouts want to help.

There are a number of ways that your Group can help, and I encourage you and your Group to get involved. Donate blood if you are eligible.

Donate money - why not have a gold coin donation during your weekly meetings in February. The monies collected should then be given to the Red Cross's Victorian Bushfires Appeal 2009.

Donations to the appeal can be made on line [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au) or by phoning **1800 811 700**

If your Group participates in anyway, please contact the State Office on 9735 9000 or [rosalie.batistoni@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:rosalie.batistoni@nsw.scouts.com.au)

*Yours in Scouting, Grant De Fries, Chief Commissioner*



***VENTURING OUT***  
***SUNDAY 5TH JULY 2009***  
***10.00 AM - 4.00 PM***  
***GEORGE KENDALL RIVERSIDE PARK***  
***ERMINGTON***

1st Ermington Scout Group, on behalf of GWSR, is coordinating a Super Special Awesome Day - ***Venturing Out*** (primarily for Venturers – Venturing, and Scouts – Out ) with free activities for youth aged 12-18 years.

1st Ermington Scout Group will be promoting the day heavily to youth in the local area and have developed a promotions pack that can be adapted to suit your Scout Troop, Venturer Unit, or Rover Crew. This will assist your Group to promote the day to youth in your local area. This will be a great opportunity for us to recruit Scouts, Venturers, and Rovers for Groups in GWSR, by showcasing the best of Scouting to youth in this age group.

We can't run this day alone. To be successful we need Scout Troops, Venturer Units, Rover Crews and Leaders to run extreme activities for the youth. No doubt you will have some super, special, awesome ideas. Register your interest now by emailing [venturingout@ermingtonscouts.asn.au](mailto:venturingout@ermingtonscouts.asn.au) or phone 9874 2281.

All Groups that run an activity base are then entitled to run a fundraising activity – with AJ2010 only a short time away – this is a great opportunity to add to your fundraising \$\$\$\$. Contact us for ideas on fundraising if you need some inspiration. The fundraising activity can be a food stall, or a wild, wacky, and fun idea (you cannot charge a fee for youth to participate in your activity base, all bases are free).

**Expressions of interest for activity bases/fundraising are due on 28/02/09. Get in early to secure your activity and fundraising idea.**

**For more information on Venturing Out or to register your interest online see our website: [ermingtonscouts.asn.au](http://ermingtonscouts.asn.au)**



It's on again in 2009...

***The 59<sup>th</sup> Sirius Cup Regatta***  
***13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2009 Balmoral***  
***Oval/Balmoral Beach***  
***Sydney***

***What is it?***

A chance for Scouts, Venturers and Leaders to get together at a camp based around water activities

the Scout Groups camp on Balmoral Oval, just a hop, skip and a jump from the waters of Middle Harbour, as a tent city comes to life from Friday afternoon

Scouts come from all around including interstate, Lake Burley Griffin and Lake Tuggeranong from the ACT, from the north (Belmont North, the Hunter and Coastal team, Ourimbah), from the west (Penrith) and from the south (Gerringong).

***More Details...***

- the Sirius Cup Regatta is the premier Scout sailing regatta on the Branch calendar and it is held annually
- there are 5 divisions of sailing races
- canoeing races for Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders
- rowing events
- iron man events for all-comers
- activities for the land lubbers
- evening entertainment

***For more details visit***

***<http://au.geocities.com/siriuscup> or [email  
siriuscup@yahoo.com.au](mailto:siriuscup@yahoo.com.au)***

***Please mark it in your diary now!***

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