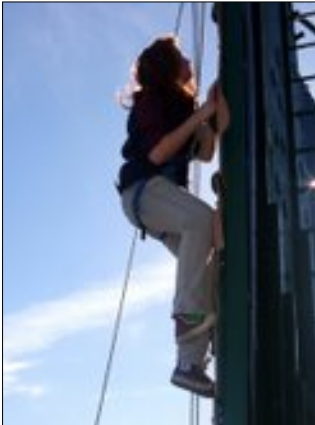


# The Bulletin

*Journal of the Greater Western Sydney Region*



*A climbing wall, fairy floss and cooking damper over hot coals were all on offer at the Venturing Out Day*

**No. 369 August 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

### Snowgum Update Online ordering

To improve access to ordering Section award badges for all Leaders in NSW, Snowgum is now offering a flat \$1 postage and handling fee on all badge orders placed on-line regardless of the quantity ordered. Dispatch is guaranteed next business day. Available online only at [www.scoutsdirect.com.au](http://www.scoutsdirect.com.au)

The Bulletin is edited and published for the general information of members in the Greater Western Sydney Region. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of 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*

*Email: [rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au](mailto:rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au)*



*Building a Better Future*

Congratulations to all the World Scout Day Award recipients. It is very gratifying to see so many honoured in this way, for doing over and above their normal Scouting roles. Our awards dinner in October should see large numbers in attendance, to see the recipients receive their awards and help them celebrate a very special occasion. If you were honoured, this means that one or more of your peers has thought you were deserving and taken the time to nominate you. These awards are very special, and you should feel deservedly proud.

Our AGM was held in conjunction with *Venturing Out*. Congratulations to Tracey Hansford GL 1<sup>st</sup> Ermington and her Group for a great day. This day was to attract new members to the Venturing section. Thanks to all the people who ran the many and varied bases, attracting potential youth members to try different experiences. Thank you to all those who attended the AGM and in particular, Geoff McGrath, Peter Nickl and Peter Stieme for helping with the setting up and afternoon tea.

I also attended the State AGM. This was held at Newington Armoury, which included the opening of the Heritage Museum. An initial display was provided by our very own Peter Nickl. Thank you Peter, for all your hard work. There is a lot of work to be done and I understand many people will be very busy in the coming months preparing the buildings and equipment for show. We also had Jessica Micallef from 1<sup>st</sup> Dural receive a Queen Scout Scholarship. Congratulations to Jessica and her Leaders from 1<sup>st</sup> Dural. Jessica gave a fine speech to all those there. Thanks also to 1<sup>st</sup> Blaxland for providing the delicious sausages on a roll we all had. With the smell of them cooking it felt like a real Scout camp.

The State team and staff are to be congratulated on a very impressive meeting. I should also mention that our State Vice President and our Region President are one and the same - Alan

Overton. Congratulations to Alan on his reappointment. Alan works tirelessly for us and many other worthy organisations and we are blessed to have him as part of our team.

After the AGM, I attended the Chief Commissioner's Council. The Star road shows will now not happen until 2010. State are currently testing the software at the State Office. Hopefully all the glitches are being ironed out and we will soon be using the new system.

I recently attended a performance of the Cumberland Gang Show and what a great show it was. I was able to wear the red scarf I was presented last year, and felt very special wearing it. It was their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and it was great to see many of the "old gang" present and on stage including our Deputy RC, Neville Henderson. I would like to thank everyone involved with the show for all their hard work and I look forward to next year's performance.

*Jan Playford*

*Thought for the month:*

**Shoot for the moon, even if you miss  
you will land amongst the stars!**



### ***GROUP SCARVES***

Snowgum's scarf supplier is prepared to supply directly to Scout Groups to help reduce the cost of Scouting and speed up the delivery time..

***The supplier's contact details are:***

Margaret Seymour  
 Davmar Homecrafts (ABN 21 092 757 393)  
 153 Greenpoint Drive  
 Greenpoint NSW 2428 Phone or Fax 6555 2526

***Pricing as at 01/05/09***

	<b>Plain</b>	<b>1 Edge</b>	<b>2 Edges</b>	<b>3 Edges</b>
<b>S (Youth)</b>	\$6.00	\$6.80	\$7.40	\$8.70
<b>M (Adult)</b>	\$7.60	\$7.95	\$8.70	\$9.95
<b>L</b>	\$9.50	\$10.20	\$10.95	\$11.70

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

*Jan Carter - Region Office Manager*

*Phone: 9639 2488*

*Fax: 9686 2510*

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



### ***Scout Job Week***

Scout Job Week remittance forms are due now. I have the awards, so they can be processed at the office straight away. Remember you only have until the end of August to submit the remittance.

### ***Senior First Aid Course***

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Senior First Aid course, that was to be held Sept 5 and 6, has had to be cancelled. Sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused.

### ***Paid invoices***

Congratulations to all groups for paying their April Membership Invoices - except for a couple of crews all done and dusted.

All the Asset Management Fees have been paid, except for one group which is in dispute. So once again we are in the good books!

### ***Membership Invoices***

The July invoices (for new members) have been mailed out to all Groups by State HQ and need to be paid immediately. There should be absolutely no reason why any Group cannot pay the money they owe to State -

- the parents should have paid the joining fee and membership fees to the Group prior to their child being invested.
- the Group should have banked the money until they receive an invoice for payment.
- the money paid in by parents for fees, is not used for any other purpose.

*So please help me keep up our good reputation and pay on time. Let's see what we can do.*

## APPOINTMENTS JULY 2009

### APPOINTMENTS

HALL Bryan	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Wentworthville Group
HILLYARD Jo-Ann	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Blaxland Group
JIANG Hong	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Carlingford Group
KEENAN Leonie	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Hawkesbury Group
MCLENNAN Sally	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Balcombe Hts Group
MARSCHAM Grahame	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Hawkesbury Group
VANDERJAGT John	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> St Marys Group
WHITE Larisse	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Balcombe Hts Group

### TRANSFERS

BATTAM Raquel	Fr T/JSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Kellyville Mob
	To AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Kellyville Group
BOLLARD, Joanne	Fr AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Balcombe Hts Group
	To AJSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Balcombe Heights Mob
BOMWICK Jane	Fr AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Blaxland Group
	To AJSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Blaxland Taipan Mob
BURGER Felicity	Fr AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Castle Hill Group
	To ASL	1 <sup>st</sup> Castle Hill Troop
LUMMIS Christopher	Fr JSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Ermington Mob
	To AJSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Ermington Mob
MADDOCK Dean	Fr AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Blaxland Group
	To JSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Blaxland <i>Taipan</i> Mob
PILLAI Krishnakumar	Fr AL 1	1 <sup>st</sup> Carlingford Group
	To GL	1 <sup>st</sup> Carlingford Group
SCARMAN Anthony	Fr AL	1 <sup>st</sup> Ermington Group
	To AJSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Ermington Mob
SHEPPARD Ian	Fr AL	2 <sup>nd</sup> Baulkham Hills Group
	To ASL	2 <sup>nd</sup> Baulkham Hills Troop
WATKINS Grace	Fr AL	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Merrylands Group
	To ACSL	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Merrylands Pack

### RESIGNATIONS

PUGH Gregory	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Blacktown Group
STUART Emma	AL	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Blacktown Group
SWAN Raymond	ACSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Hawkesbury Pack

### TRAINEE LEADERS NOT PROCEEDING

CUPIT John	Trainee VSL	1 <sup>st</sup> Oakville Unit
MORRIS Kimberley	Trainee CS	1 <sup>st</sup> Westmead Pack

**SCOUTS AUSTRALIA NSW  
2009 - 2010**

**MEMBERSHIP FEES AND PRO-RATA JOINING FEES**

**General Membership Fee \$52.00**

The General Membership Fee covers the running of Scouting Membership Operations in NSW throughout the year.

**Insurance Fee \$26.00**

The insurance component is Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurance coverage for Members.

**Total membership Fee for 2009-2010 \$78.00**

To be a registered member covered by the Association's Insurance, a Group must have paid the membership fee to the Branch for their members. It is up to the Group to have collected fees from Members to meet the Membership Invoice amount received from the State Office.

**Joining Fee \$20.00**

The joining fee is only charged once to each member.

**Annual Fees billed for members current at April 1 for coming year:** Invoiced Apr 1  
\$52.00 + \$26.00 Total \$78.00

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (Joining between April and June) Pro-Rata 100%** Invoiced July 1  
\$52.00 + \$26.00 Total \$78 plus \$20 joining fee

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (Joining between July and Sep) Pro-Rata 75%** Invoiced Oct 1  
\$39.00 + \$19.50 Total \$58.50 plus \$20 joining fee

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (Joining between Oct and Dec) Pro-Rata 50%** Invoiced Jan 1  
\$26.00 + \$13.00 Total \$39.00 plus \$20 joining fee

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (Joining between Jan and March) Pro-Rata 0%** Invoiced Apr 1  
Joining fee \$20.00

## **JOEY SCOUT NOTES**

*Sandy Knox*

*District Leader Joey Scouts*

*Email: [dljs@gwsjoeys.org.au](mailto:dljs@gwsjoeys.org.au)*



Our thanks to Brian Roberts (DA Hills South) who came along to the June Wandarraah and presented an informative session on Day Walks for Joey Scouts.

Throughout July and August, Kathy Cuneo will be away on holidays. Any Joey enquiries should be directed to Sandy Knox District Leader Joey Scouts, Parramatta District.

### **Trek About Activity**

Joey Leaders are enthusiastic about our term three Joey Scouts Trek About activity. Joey Mobs are to plan and participate in a nature walk/hike/bushwalk of a minimum one hour duration. A blanket badge will be available to purchase for Mobs that participate. Applications are to be submitted to Kathy Cuneo by Friday 18th September. The cost of each blanket badge is \$2.50 Application forms can be downloaded from [www.gwsjoeys.org.au](http://www.gwsjoeys.org.au) or contact Sandy Knox for more information.

### **Wandarrah**

Our theme for Wandarraah on 21 August will be recruitment. We encourage all Mobs to come along to this meeting and share their ideas on recruiting new members to the Joey Scout section. Dianne Stocks (Region Commissioner Development) will be in attendance at this meeting to talk about a range of recruitment strategies for us to try in our Mobs.

### **Lost Property from Jamborette @ Bents Basin**

There are still many articles of clothing and assorted bits and pieces in the *lost and fund* box from the Jamborette. You have until the end of August to claim them, after that they will be donated to charity. Please remind all your youth members (and their parents) about the importance of putting names on everything they pack for camp. This will be especially important for the forthcoming Jamboree!

## **CUB SCOUT NOTES**

*Patricia Shaw*

*Region Commissioner Cub Scouts*

*Email: [cubs@greaterwestscouts.com.au](mailto:cubs@greaterwestscouts.com.au)*



### **Cub Baanya**

Our camp for older cub scouts will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at Bundilla. At this camp we will again camp in Districts, with each district organizing their own campsite and catering arrangements. Your District Leader Cub Scouts has all the details and necessary forms. Please make sure your older cub scouts have the opportunity to take the challenge at *Cub Baanya*.

### **Cub Scout Leadership Course**

The next Cub Scout Leadership Course will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2009. Just a reminder, that this course is not necessary for the Grey Wolf Award and only cub scouts who show leadership potential should be invited to attend this event.

### **Out and About Month**

November is '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 \$2.00 each.

### **Future Scout Day AJ2010**

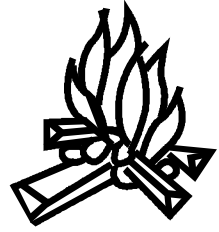
Future Scout Day at AJ2010 will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 at Cataract Scout Park. You will need to register online and pay \$20 per person (this will get you activities, badge, pin and award) to the State Office. Cubs will need to bring a packed lunch and plan to eat lunch with Scouts from your Groups or Districts. We will be travelling by bus (cost to be advised) and 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.**

*Have Fun! Tricia Shaw*

## *FROM THE DEN OF THE RC SCOUTS*

*Robin Garrett*

*Email: [scouts@greaterwestscouts.com.au](mailto:scouts@greaterwestscouts.com.au)*



Hello everyone,

We have received verbal approval for the makeup of the Jamboree Troops for our Region. The list showing number of youth members and the appointed Troop Leader is on the Region website.

We do not yet have approval of the other leaders in the line with the Troop so we have not identified them there. It has been a pains taking task trying to keep everyone together as much as possible but in the end we have had to draw a line and move forward. The maximum number of Scouts we can have in a Troop is 38 and some of our Troops are already at that limit. This means that any new applications we receive from now until the end of September will have to go into one of the other Troops.

I ask you all to please move forward with a positive focus on making this work for the benefit of ALL scouts attending the Jamboree, not just the ones in our home troops and districts. We are there to meet other Scouts and Leaders and to make sure the youth members get the most out of the event and learn about people and gain new skills.

I will be sending to each Troop Leader a list of those assigned to their Troops so they can start making contact with those kids.

Thanks everyone for your assistance, suggestions and mostly your support.

*Congratulations and best wishes to  
Scott Robertson, Caitlin Trindall and Daniel Gash  
1st Hazelbrook Scout Troop  
for achieving their Green Cords*



Bravo - Well done

# AUSTRALIAN JAMBOREE 2010

**CATARACT SCOUT PARK**  
**4th - 14th January 2010**



NSW Contingent Applications for AJ2010 will close as of September 30, 2009, with no exceptions. Late applications MUST be received at State Headquarters prior to this date, along with FULL fees applicable to the application.

Any applications received after this date, will be returned to the applicant, who will not be approved to attend AJ2010, irrespective of any Jamboree allocated or appointed role.

This measure is to ensure that planning and resources can be realised for both the NSW Contingent and the Jamboree Organising Team in a timely manner.

While we regret having to take these measures, this situation is has arisen due to members not submitting their applications and fees by due dates.

Contingent has progressed with commitments based upon received applications and have now reached the point where we cannot guarantee that late applications will receive their Contingent kits, if we exceed our ordered quantities.

We would remind all applicants that non payment of ALL fees will force us to review any outstanding fees with a view to having the applicant's approval withdrawn. This will also be effective as at 30th September, 2009 with no exceptions.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact me directly.

Regards,

*Phil Crutchley*

*NSW Contingent Leader AJ2010*

## **VENTURER REPORT**

*Aaron Wardle RC Venturer Scouts*

*Mobile: 0421 076 497*

*Email: [venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au](mailto:venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au)*



Building on the success of *Venturing Out*, several units in the Region have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Parramatta City Council on promoting Venturers at their recent **Community Cricket Day**. I am pleased to see so much dedication towards this local interaction and hopefully we can expand these relationships with other councils throughout GWSR in the year ahead.

The July school holidays started with over forty Venturers attending the **Region Roventure** at Bielany (Upper Colo) where they enjoyed a fun-filled program and took advantage of the chance to socialise with the Region Rovers. The Christmas Dinner was particularly tasty and all of the games and activities were well participated. I would like to express my own thanks to Sonia and her team from 1st North Mount Druitt Rover Crew for organising such a great weekend and we are all looking forward to another successful Roventure in 2010!

On the same weekend, we had a small group of our Venturers attend the **State Venturer Environment Camp** at Ingleside. This is a weekend run by the State Environment Team to assist Venturers complete their Environment award work. The Venturers enjoyed a productive weekend and are each expected to finalise their badges in the near future.

And wrapping up a busy couple of weeks, a large number of Venturers from the Region were involved in the 40th Anniversary **Cumberland Gang Show** both onstage and behind the scenes. The entire cast and crew produced another exceptional show and I was very pleased to be able to join them on stage for the celebrations.

Having completed all necessary requirements, Sean Emery of 1st Westmead Venturer Unit has had his **Queen's Scout Award** approved and will be presented with his certificate at Government House in September.

Congratulations Sean on a job well done, and all the best for your time in Rovers.

As well, Jessica Micallef of 1st Dural, having received her Queen's Scout Award last year, was presented with a Queen's Scout Scholarship at the NSW Branch AGM. Jessica is a worthy recipient of this scholarship and will no doubt do exceptionally well in her university studies.

I am very pleased to announce that Terry Darragh and Steve Wallace have recently accepted new roles as District Leaders Venturer Scouts. Terry and Steve will be working closely with myself and the Districts to improve interaction between sections and support units in building their numbers. A third District Leader will hopefully be appointed in the coming months.

And finally, our annual Region Camp (**Waratah**) will again be held in November. This year, the event will be run to the theme of **Gilligan's Island** at the idyllic Glenrock Scout Camp. All current Venturers are encouraged to attend with registrations now being accepted via the website. A special invitation is also being extended to any Scouts who will be at least 14 years of age at the time of the camp to come along and join the adventure.



***Keep watch for your message in a bottle,  
washing up on a beach near you!!!***

**1st Kings Langley Venturer Scout Unit  
20th Anniversary October 2009**

Calling all past members of our unit, to join with us and help celebrate this special milestone.

For more information or to pass on your contact details so that you can receive your Invitation, please contact:

**Margo Dalziel VSL**

**Home phone: 9831 7658    Mobile: 0405 599 241**

**Email: [cmn.dal@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cmn.dal@bigpond.net.au)**

## **ROVER REPORT**

*Matt Thompson*

*PR & Internet Officer*

*Email: [pr.internet@gwsrovers.com.au](mailto:pr.internet@gwsrovers.com.au)*

*Website: [www.greaterwestscouts.com.au/rovers](http://www.greaterwestscouts.com.au/rovers)*



**Venturing Out Day** was attended by Rovers; thank you to Blaxland 'Kalangadoo' for organising crate stacking, face painting and hair spraying, Merrylands for fairy floss stall, and Kings Langley for their general assistance on the day. The Region Rovers were lucky enough to win a Coleman Towable, which we will put to good use.



Congratulations to all our Rovers who were involved in **Cumberland Gang Show**, both on stage and behind the scenes. Some of our Rovers were in an all male ballet item, even wearing tutu's! Something that will not be forgotten quickly! Also Bravo to Brendan Richards (Kings Langley Rovers) on being awarded the **Rodney Award** for 2009!

**'Christmas In July' Roventure** was well attended this year. A huge thank you to North Mount DrUITT Rovers for taking the lead in organising and running this year's camp at Bielany, Upper Colo. Much fun was had by all!

Blaxland 'Kalangadoo' Rovers are gearing up for their **'Rocky Horror' Moot** on 7th - 9th August. It is to be held at Tara Guide Camp, Silverdale and should be a fun and interesting weekend.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 4th August 2009      | 2nd Castle Hill Rovers Annual Gold Coin Gourmet Dinner |
| 7th to 9th August    | GWS Region Moot <i>Rocky Horror</i>                    |
| 5th to 6th September | Magical Mystery Tour                                   |
| 27th September       | Rover/Venturer Photo Hunt in the City                  |

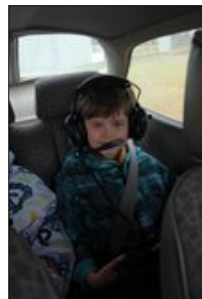
2nd to 5th October NSW Branch Moot 'Hilton Moot'  
7th October 2009 Region Rover Council @ Bundilla  
9th October Harbour Cruise  
23rd to 25th October 2009 Hume Region 'Superhero Moot'

**Full details available on the website**  
[www.greaterwestscouts.com.au/rovers/calendar](http://www.greaterwestscouts.com.au/rovers/calendar)

***1st North Rocks Cubs and Scouts Take to the Sky***  
*Joanne Hrast (Bagheera) Assistant CSL 1st North Rocks*

1st North Rocks Cubs and Scouts enjoyed a fantastic day at Camden Airport at the Scout Air Activities Centre. All the participants enjoyed the experience of cockpit procedures, observed aircraft controls, listened to air traffic control instructions and had a walk around the grounds of the airport. The Cubs learned all they needed, to gain their Flight Level 2 badge and made their own model airplane to race with one another. Scouts worked towards their Pioneer or Explorer Badges. All family members enjoyed uninterrupted views of the Hawkesbury Nepean district as they soared high in the Scout's own fleet of Cessna 172's, and then relaxed at a family picnic on the lawns of the activity centre.

If you would like your Scout Group to also enjoy a memorable day please **phone** the *Scout Air Activity Centre Booking Officer* on 4655 3465 **or email:** [fly.scouts@telstra.com](mailto:fly.scouts@telstra.com) **or visit the website:** [www.nsw.scouts.com.au/airactivities](http://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/airactivities)



## **BUSHWALKING NOTES**

*Frank Barr GWSR Bushwalking Coordinator*

*4758 6472 or 0409 128 310*

*Email: [data\\_scsi@msn.com.au](mailto:data_scsi@msn.com.au)*



Since my comments in the May 2009 Bulletin, there has been another well publicised bushwalking search and rescue in the Blue Mountains. Fortunately, this one ended successfully after a lone overseas visitor spent almost two weeks lost. He was somewhere in Cedar Valley between The Ruined Castle Mt Solitary spur and Narrow Neck peninsula. He survived eleven nights in mid winter without any camping equipment whatsoever.

The backpacker has been extensively interviewed on TV and quite obviously has learnt the error of his ways. He readily admitted his mistakes by ignoring the basic safety rules when undertaking the bushwalk. He did not carry a map or compass, did not take his mobile telephone, travelled alone and did not tell anyone where he was going or when he expected to return.

As a member of a voluntary organisation, I am called upon fairly frequently to help in search and rescues and stretcher transport in difficult terrain. Personally, I find the outings an enjoyable challenge and willingly participate when possible. During the recent search, I was on holidays in Queensland. I followed progress on TV with interest and shared the excitement when the announcement came that the subject was found alive. Since then, I have pondered a few questions:

### ***What did it cost?***

My round figure estimate for the exercise was about 12,000 person hours of effort. This would be a mixture of employed/unemployed/self employed personnel as well as paid Police search and rescue squad members. Some of these people would take leave (paid and unpaid) and some employers would pay employees while they searched.

### ***Could it happen in Scouts?***

Unfortunately, the short answer is yes. While we have rules about party size, equipment carried and experience required, the only

control we have over parties accidentally becoming separated while on an expedition is common sense. All the correct paperwork and preparation will not prevent a tired party member from dropping behind and taking a wrong track at a fork.

### **What can we learn?**

The purpose of the above comments was not to depress everybody but to look for the silver lining. We can learn so much about survival in cold weather areas. I suspect articles and books will be written about the twelve day survival feat for many years to come. While acknowledging it should not have occurred in the first place, we must be prepared to learn from it. It will be interesting to hear more details as they unfold over time and add to our ability on how to cope with the unexpected.

Meanwhile, take care with bush outings and be prepared. Knowing how to avoid trouble in the first place is a far better option than knowing how to survive when in it.

## ***SCOUT ENVIRONMENT WEEKS 2009***

The final countdown is on to this year's Scout Environment Weeks (SEW) in September.

Now is the time to finalise your plans for this project. As in previous years, Groups need to undertake 4 hours of education, training and practical hand on projects within 50km of their regular place of meeting. This may include involvement with outside environmental agencies.

This program is a great way for all sections to demonstrate that “**A Scout Cares for the Environment**” in an active way, and gives members the chance to learn by doing. Why not get involved in local Landcare or community projects to show Scouting is alive in your community.

To help with ideas, media releases and letters of introduction, an Information Pack is available on the State Website [www.nsw.scouts.com.au](http://www.nsw.scouts.com.au) This pack also includes the application form to complete and return to the State Office by October 17, 2009.

For further information contact Glen Mackintosh, ABC (Environment) at [loreseeker@aapt.net.au](mailto:loreseeker@aapt.net.au)

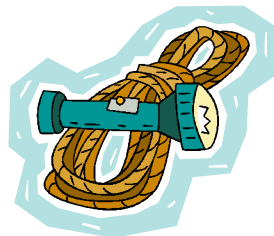


## **ROCK RELATED ACTIVITIES**

*Rick Jamieson Region RRA Co-ordinator*

*Phone: 4572 1321*

*Email : [rickj15@bigpond.com](mailto:rickj15@bigpond.com)*



## **COMING ACTIVITIES**

### **Abseil (Rockcraft) Course:**

Tue 27<sup>th</sup> October (theory at Bundilla) and 31<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November (practical at Bowen Mtn. and Yellow Rock).

### **Scout Abseil Badge Course:**

Fri 11<sup>th</sup> September (theory) at a scout hall suitable to the applicants and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September (practical) at West Pennant Hills.

### **Scout Top-Rope Climbing Badge Course:**

25<sup>th</sup> September (theory at a suitable scout hall) and 27<sup>th</sup> September (practical at Lindfield Rocks).

### **Caving Course:**

Tue 20<sup>th</sup> October (theory at Bundilla) and 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October (practical at Bungonia).

**Cave Trip:** 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November at Wee Jasper.

**Rescue (Recovery) Course:** Sun 8<sup>th</sup> November at Bowen Mtn.

### **Canyon Course:**

14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November at Bowens Creek South Branch and Serendipity (camp out at Mt. Wilson).

### **Canyon Trip:**

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> 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 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.*

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

## **REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM**

*Keith Travers Activity Commissioner*

*Telephone: 9632-3341*

*Email: [activities@greaterwestscouts.com.au](mailto:activities@greaterwestscouts.com.au)*



We have the opportunity to have an **artificial climbing wall** at our activities. This wall is owned and operated by the State Office Activity team. The wall is 8 meters long, weighs 1.6 tonnes and is self supporting. There are some requirements for us to use this wall - these, as well as a program will be advised. We also have the chance to have some of our instructors on the team, so we are looking for volunteers to join the State Office team as well as be available in our Region. We have an advantage as the wall is located at Bundilla at present, but unfortunately, we do not have any members trained to operate the climbing wall.

We are **seeking** adult **members** to join our **Region Team** for boating, flying fox and abseiling. We will pay additional training fees for those wishing to become instructors. We are also looking for Venturers to do service on these teams as well. Qualifications are required. For further information or to express your interest, please contact me on 9632 3341 up until 9pm.

Would you like to learn to sail and maybe enter the Sirius Cup or other region regattas? The first step is to have a sailing qualification; we have a **sailing course** scheduled for October school holidays 10th to 14th October, 9am to 4pm each day. Five days sailing for only \$50. Closing date September 25th.

**Level 3 Canoe information day** 22nd August NO COST. Registration required. Closing date 17th August

**Canoe course dates** available 7th & 8th October and 17th & 18th October. Closing dates two weeks prior. Min 10 Max 20

**Family Fun Day on the Water** 13th December @ Lake Chipping Norton Cost \$5. Closing date 24th November.

*Now is the time to plan your activities!*

*Keith Travers*

## 2009 ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS FOR GOOD SERVICE



*Two Hundred and Forty Seven Adult Members of Scouts Australia, New South Wales, are honoured by the Chief Scout of Australia, Her Excellency, Governor - General Ms Quentin Bryce AC in the annual Adult Recognition Awards for good service, part of The Scout Association's observance of the founding of Scouting at the first Scout Camp held at Brounsea Island in the UK on 1 August 1907.*

### **SILVER EMU – for sustained and exceptional service**

**Hook, Jeff:** Cub Scout Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Westmead Cub Pack

**McAlpine, Phyllis:** District Adviser, Hawkesbury District

**Travers, Keith:** Region Commissioner (Activities), GWSR

**Van Den Burg, Johan:** Region Leader (Activities), GWSR

### **SILVER KOALA – for distinguished service**

**Wood, Jeanette:** Group Leader

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Group

### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – for distinguished service**

**Anderson, Harold:** Group Chairman, 1<sup>st</sup> North Mt Druitt

**McGrath, Geoffrey :** Hall Booking Officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Westmead

### **SILVER WATTLE – for outstanding service**

**Bisby, Roger:** Group Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Oakville Scout Group

**Leahy, John:** Region Leader (Activities), GWSR

**Plummer, Leonie :** Joey Scout Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Carlingford Mob.

**SILVER ARROWHEAD – for excellent service**

**Brodrick**, Kenneth: Ass. Scout Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Blaxland Scout Troop  
**Douglass**, Annette: Cub Scout Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Parramatta Cub Pack  
**Gale**, John: Rover Adviser (Resp) 2<sup>nd</sup> Baulkham Hills Rover Crew  
**Gleeson** Derek: Supporter, 1<sup>st</sup> Blaxland Scout Group  
**Kiely**, Brian: Group Chairman, 1<sup>st</sup> Blackheath Scout Group  
**Kiely**, Cheryl: Group Secretary, 1<sup>st</sup> Blackheath Scout Group  
**Scott**, Heather: Supporter, 1<sup>st</sup> Blaxland Scout Group  
**Simpson**, Douglas: Supporter, GWSR  
**Soul**, Trevor : Ass. Cub Scout Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Riverstone Cub Pack  
**Tunica**, Nicolette: Cub Scout Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Blaxland Cub Pack  
**Wilson**, Gregory: Cub Scout Leader, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings Langley Cub Pack

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT – for good service**

**Avery**, Collette: Scout Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Riverstone Scout Troop  
**Gardner**, John: Group Chairman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings Langley Scout Group  
**Hansford**, Tracey: Group Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Ermington Scout Group  
**Hanson**, Christopher: Scout Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Oakville Scout Troop  
**Hughes**, Lisa: Ass. Cub Scout Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Riverstone Cub Pack  
**Johnstone**, Malcolm: Group Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> St Marys Scout Group  
**Knox**, Sandra: District Joey Scout Leader, Parramatta District  
**Mahns**, Katherine: Cub Scout Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Springwood Cub Pack  
**Mahoney**, Martin: Region Leader (Activities), GWSR  
**McLean**, Adam: Group Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Blaxland Scout Group  
**Ray**, Carol: Group Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings Langley Scout Group  
**Robertson**, Aldin: Cub Scout Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> St Marys Cub Pack  
**Stewart**, Clinton: Scout Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Ermington Scout Troop

*Congratulations and Bravo to all our Awardees in GWSR*

## MY FIRST JOTA

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



Hi every one - it is nearing that time of year once again!

*What time of year?* I hear you say. *Why JOTA* of course.

For the information of new members, the initials stand for; Jamboree On The Air. It is now also known as JOTI or Jamboree On The Internet. so it is commonly called the JOTA/JOTI weekend.

Most districts should be well into their planning for this event, at least I hope they are.

***What do we do at Jota?*** Well JOTA is an international event when scouts and guides from *all over the world* meet and talk to each other over the magic of short wave Radio and Internet on the same two days every year.

I have many fond memories of Jota as a scout and now a leader/radio operator. I remember the *alien* sounds coming out of the strange black boxes in the tents on *my* first Jota and strange guys climbing trees and running over roofs, stringing all sorts of wires and putting up weird looking bits of metal.

My first Jota contact was with a Guide Leader in WA. I was 13 at the time and was sitting in the back of a RAAF radio truck, in Richmond NSW, next to the RAAF operator. He had just handed me the microphone and told me that a lady named Melissa from a guide group in WA was 'on the line'. My first reaction was one of scepticism. There is just *NO WAY*, I thought. There was no wire and just this little stick poking into the air, *how can that work?* But work it did.

I was very worried at first - sweaty palms - what was I going to say? Luckily, the kind radio operator had put up a sheet of prompt questions - so I started at the top. It took a bit of getting used to, the one person at a time method, I had to talk, but on the plus side it gave me time to think what I was going to say next.

The Guide Leader and I spoke about a number of things, most of

which I cannot exactly recall. I have had a lot of contacts on the radio since, so the details are a little fuzzy now, but I do remember talking about what the Guides did on their special activity nights and comparing them to Scouting.

Before I knew it, I was getting *the 'wind up signal'* from the operator, so I said good bye and thanks to Melissa and handed the microphone back. I raced off to closing parade as it was Sunday at about 3pm, I was shocked to see that *half a hour had past*. I later found out that they let me go on longer because I looked like I was having fun. I never spoke to Melissa again at any of the following JOTA's I attended. I didn't get the station's call sign or location, but it remains a lasting memory of JOTA. I am shedding a small tear right now, recalling it!

It's funny how things start out, and now many years later, I am the *strange guy* who is climbing over rooftops and up trees with all sorts of weird equipment in my hands. I am the radio operator watching the kids make their first contact, seeing *their* worried looks, observing their problems with the microphone and helping them with their first Jota contacts.

Have you organised for **your Scouts** to have the chance of a similar Jota experience that I had?

***Hope to hear you on air during October 17-18, 2009!***

*Karl Humphreys*



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