



# The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 402 - SEPTEMBER 2012



**SCOUTS AUSTRALIA NSW**  
**GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION**

**Mr. Neville Henderson**

*Region Commissioner*

**Mr. Alan Overton**

*Region President*

*and*

**Mr. Geoff McGrath**

*Region Chairman*

*Cordially invite you to attend the annual*  
***Adult Recognition Awards Presentation Dinner***

*on*

***Thursday, 18th October 2012***

***6.30pm for 7pm start***

*at*

**Blacktown RSL Club**  
**Second Avenue, Blacktown**

*\$40 per person - includes three course meal*

***R.S.V.P. to Region Office - 9th October 2012***

***\* Full and correct uniform and decorations to be worn please.***

**GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION OFFICE**

**6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills 2153**

**BUSINESS HOURS: TUESDAY to THURSDAY 9AM TO 3.30PM, FRIDAY 10AM TO 4.30PM**

**Phone: 9639 2488 Fax: 9686 2510 Email: [gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au)**

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

## **FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER**

It is amazing that again this month has been spoiled by the report of a couple of incidents where Scouting rules have not been followed and incidents have occurred. When will people learn that they must follow the rules and complete the correct paperwork otherwise they could make themselves and the Association liable for fines by Workcover?

I have had the pleasure to attend three Australian Scout Medallion presentations during the past couple of weeks and congratulations to Amanda Wade from 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Blacktown, Jessica White from 1<sup>st</sup> St Marys and Ben Park from 1<sup>st</sup> Westmead. Well done to these Scouts and a special mention to their Leaders, troops and their parents for the assistance given to them to achieve this prestigious award. I must say that the three presentations were well attended.

The Venturers held a Leadership course during the month and I was invited to attend their formal dinner on the Saturday night as a special guest. The evening was enjoyable and congratulations to the presenters, participants and in particular the cooks and helpers for providing a scrumptious meal.

Anne Thompson and her loyal band of Leaders ran another successful Cub Scout Leadership course with 43 participants. I am amazed at the commitment shown by the Leaders who voluntarily give up their weekend to help educate the youth members on the skills of leadership.

Mark Fell, Fred and Therese Kaltenbacher attended the Rouse Hill Anglican College Harvest Fair to run the climbing wall as a promotion for Scouting. Also Gabie Thompson DLCS and other Leaders from Hills District helped by handing out promotional materials for Scouting. A big thank you to these people for a job well done.

I would remind all Groups that it is now time to get your applications in to your State member of Parliament for the current round of grants which opened on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2012. If you need further information please look up your local state member's website for details.

Unfortunately, Ann Pounder has decided not to continue in the role of Member Support effective immediately and we thank Ann for her assistance in this role in the past couple of months. Any special requests for support should be made to Region Office who will arrange for the appropriate person to look after the enquiry.

Finally, congratulations to our RC Communications and Public Relations, Matt Thompson who marries Meagan Lee on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September. We wish them a long

and happy life together. I have allowed Matt a couple of weeks break to have a honeymoon!

***Until next time ..... keep on Scouting***

**Neville Henderson - Region Commissioner**

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



**PAUL ROBERT LIPSCOMBE**

ACSL 1st /2nd Blacktown (Hathi)

17.01.1951 - 18.07.2012.

Husband of Nicole,  
Father to Alison, Shane and Rachel  
Paul will be missed by all who new him.

R.I.P

## **REGION WEBSITE**

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

The site hosts the latest Region news, calendar events and many great resources for Leaders in our Region - check it out today.

I am always looking for ideas and suggestions on how to further improve our website - please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Matt Thompson**

**RC Communications & PR**

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



**Are you on Facebook?**

If so, then please search for 'GWSR Scouts' and 'like' us - or go to:

**<https://www.facebook.com/gws.scouts>**

## JOEY SCOUT REPORT

We have a number of new Joey and Cub Leaders in GWS and some of them have been seeking some guidance on when a Joey can, can't, should or shouldn't go up to cubs. This is a decision that should be made by the JSL in consultation with the CSL, GL, parent and the Joey Scout. The rules call for flexibility, giving due consideration to the maturity of the youth member.

**Linking** should start anytime after 7.5 years and they should be invested into cubs by their 8th Birthday. If it is deemed that the Joey isn't ready by their 8th birthday then you will need to seek approval from the RCJS. Your request will need to include the name, date of birth, reasons and proposed date for linking.

**Linking Ceremonies** should be treated as a special group event. Group Council should be consulted to maximise the Group's activities and publicity opportunities. Be creative, make it memorable! Do it outdoors, on a camp, Air activities, or even on a hike.

**Special Needs:** The Special Needs Team encourage sections to make allowances in age for youth members with special needs. However they acknowledge that ideally youth with special needs should progress through the sections at the same rate as all children.

Each Joey Scout needs to be assessed on a case by case basis, ensuring that holding them back doesn't create other issues within the Joey mob. Any decision needs to include the JSL, CSL, GL, parents and in the case of going beyond their 8th Birthday, the RCJS. You may also seek further advice from GWSR's special needs representative Cassie Rec [specialneeds@greaterwestscouts.com.au](mailto:specialneeds@greaterwestscouts.com.au)

**Promise Challenges:** Joeys are not eligible to do the Promise Challenge until they turn 7.5. The Promise Challenge must be completed before being invested into Cubs. Promise Challenge forms and project material must be forwarded to the RCJS ASAP so that we can arrange for the badge to be awarded while they are still in Joey Scouts.

**Transferring between groups:** If you receive an enquiry from a youth member about transferring from another Mob, you should make contact with the JSL from the other Mob. You need to be aware if there are any issues and it's common courtesy and respect for the Leaders running that Mob.

We need to rise above any issues that may exist and respect the parents wishes and maintain the professional image of Scouting at all times. This includes Joeys transferring to a Cub Pack in a Group without a Joey Mob.

## 2012 World Scout Day Adult Recognition Awards

Congratulations to all the Joey Leaders and Supporters for their awards. I look forward to seeing you all at the Awards Dinner at Blacktown RSL on Thursday 18th October. Special HOP HOP HOP to Karen Chapman, Karina Wardle, Joanne Chamberlain, Karen Fairall, Kylie Green, Michael Hudson, Anne Muir, Margaret Preston, and to all the other award recipients.

**Brian Zarth - RC Joey Scouts**

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



Congratulations to these Joey Scouts  
who have earned their  
Promise Challenge Badges

**JUSTIN O'REILLY - 1ST STH PENRITH**

**BRENDAN ZARTH - 1ST STH PENRITH**

**JYE ABBERTON - 1ST STH PENRITH**

**JACK PEARCE - 1ST STH PENRITH**

**DALE ABNETT - 2ND KINGS LANGLEY**

**HOP - HOP - HOP**



**PLANT SALE**

**22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**9am to 3pm**

**Windsor Road,  
McGrath's Hill  
(Near Hungry Jacks)**



**Huge variety of plants for sale.  
Come early to grab a bargain!**

## CUB SCOUT NOTES

**Palanee** was held at Bundilla on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. It was a fun Programme based around TV Quiz shows. Everyone present enjoyed the chance to network and take home some new ideas to use in their Packs. We were a little disappointed that just 30 Leaders took part in the evening - this represents just 20% of all CSL's in the Region - what happened to the other 80%?

Our final **Cub Scout Leadership Course** for this year was held on Saturday, September 1 at Bundilla. The 44 enthusiastic cubs really enjoyed themselves and gave us good feedback. Sincere thanks to all the District CS Leaders and their helpers who did a marvellous job with the bases, activities and sessions and to the members of the Blue Mountains Fellowship who kept us well fed throughout the day.

I would just like to ask all CSL's to ensure that A1's for Region events, reach the Office by the advertised **closing date** and that Grey Wolf applications are sent in for processing **before the Cub Scout's 11th Birthday**. Some of you are cutting it pretty fine - be aware that late applications will not be processed and you will be the one who has to break the bad news to your Cub Scout - that the goal they have worked so hard to achieve, will not be awarded!

**Cub Baanya** will be held at Bundilla on the **27th and 28th October**. See your DLCS and the GWSR website for the A1 and further details. Please get your forms and money to Region Office by 17th October. Remember that the **fee set for food, is not** to be paid to Region Office but directly to your DLCS.

**Anne Thompson - RC Cub Scouts**

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



Congratulations to these  
Cub Scouts who have earned  
their Grey Wolf Award.

Kristopher Ho - 1st Carlingford  
Ethan Battam - 1st Kellyville  
Daniel Carter - 1st Blaxland  
Christopher Orme - 1st Blaxland  
George Sollom - 1st Winston Hills  
Jayden McEwan - 1st Winston Hills  
Nicholas Verwoerd - 1st Winston Hills  
James Brush - 1st Winston Hills  
Ben Sayer - 1st Sth Penrith  
Jonathan Myers - 1st Parramatta  
Chloe Harris - 1st Oakville  
Noah Hammond - 1st Hazelbrook

**1 - 2 - 3 - WOOF**

## TRAINING REPORT

I have found that the introductory interview system has become quite disjointed, with GL's requesting introductory interviews at all sorts of times and all sorts of venues. To try and cut down on the workload of the training team members who are being asked to present the interviews, we are trying a new strategy!

**Introductory interviews** will still be held on the first Thursday of each month but at two venues – Bundilla and Penrith. the interviews still need to be booked through the office at Bundilla and Leader kits purchased.

All Leaders needing to complete their training by just handing in their **In service forms** are asked to do so sooner rather than later, the longer you wait the more difficult it becomes.

All Leaders doing the old style advanced Wood Badge training need to complete their project and paperwork by the last sign off night in November as this system is finished by the end of the year.

**Advanced Training on e-learning:** A number of Leaders have requested e-learning log ins to begin their advanced (Wood Badge) training. **At present they are required to do the following modules:**

- Advanced Fundamental
- Advanced Personal Skill Development
- World Scouting (an elective module)
- Advanced Organisational Management
- An elective of their choice

**In the near future the following modules will be added and will need to be done:**

- Introduction to Advanced Training
- Advanced Scoutsafe
- Advanced Programming

After the e-learning modules are completed - Leaders need to do a residential weekend and Scout, Venturer and Rover Leaders will also need to do a SIS10 Bushwalking course. The SIS10 course is optional but recommended for Joey and Cub leaders.

All certificate IV attachments and evidence of learning will have to be completed and at the end of the residential weekend a project will be discussed.

**Kathy Cuneo RC AT&D**

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

# APPOINTMENTS LIST

13/08/12 to 03/09/2012

## APPOINTMENTS

CARDONA, Christopher Gary	Appt TL(J)	1st Erskine Park Joey Mob
DALTON, Daniel Mark	Appt TL (C)	1st Dural Cub Pack
DAVIS, Paul Philip	Appt TL (S)	1st Glossodia Scout Troop
MCELREA, Dean Andrew	Appt TL (S)	1st Blaxland Scout Troop <i>Dunphy</i>
MCLELLAN, John David	Appt TL (S)	1st Hazelbrook Scout Troop
VAN ROOY, Marion Elsie	Fellowship Member	CGS Scout Fellowship 06/08/2009
WILSON, Simone Jasmine	Appt TL (C)	1st Hawkesbury Cub Pack

## TRANSFERS

FARRUGIA, Tracey Fr	Appt TL(C) To CSL	1st Emu Plains Cub Pack <i>Booragorang</i> 1st Emu Plains Cub Pack <i>Booragorang</i>
HALL, Bryan John	Fr AL(G) To ASL	1st Wentworthville Scout Group 1st Wentworthville Scout Troop
HOWLETT, Ross William	Fr DSL To DC	Blacktown District Blacktown District
TOWNLEY, Russell Stuart	Fr ACSL To ASL	1st North Rocks Cub Pack <i>Barloo</i> 1st North Rocks Scout Troop
WATTS, Bronwyn Ann	Fr Appt TL(G) To AJSL	1st Oakville Scout Group 1st Oakville Joey Mob

## RESIGNATIONS

BEAHAN, Daniel Steven	AL(G)	1st Whalan Scout Group
MACDONALD, Angela	AJSL	2nd Kings Langley Joey Mob
MORANDIN, Levi Richard	ASL	1st Glossodia Scout Troop
MORANDIN, Shelby Mae	Appt TL (V)	1st Glossodia Venturer Unit
NICKOLS, Michelle Andre	Appt TL (S)	2nd Castle Hill Scout Troop
NICKOLS, Philip John Appt	TL(S)	2nd Castle Hill Scout Troop
WORSLEY, Bernard Patrick	ACSL	1st Ermington Cub Pack <i>Blaxland</i>

## TRAINEE LEADERS NOT PROCEEDING

BARSOUM, Melinda Sue	TL (CS)	2nd Castle Hill Cub Pack <i>Nackara</i>
MORGAN, Francesca Ann	TL (JS)	1st Kellyville Joey Mob
SECKER, Janet Clare	TL (S)	1st North Rocks Scout Troop

## CALLED TO HIGHER SERVICE

WILKINSON, Gary Robert	SL	1st Hazelbrook Scout Troop 13/08/2012
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# GWS Venturers...Back to the Bush

There are many badges in the Venturer award scheme that can be completed with simple bushwalking including...

- Venturing Skills
- Expeditions
- Outdoors
- Endeavour

So... sit down with the rest of your Unit, find a free weekend and explore somewhere new today. You won't regret it!

*And don't forget to invite the older Scouts to come along too!*

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## VENTURER REPORT

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Last month I returned from a hugely successful journey to the Jamborees at Úlfjótuvatn in Iceland and Loppi in Finland and had a wonderful experience at both. I was fortunate to be working as an activity leader at each of the events – albeit a little shocked to be scheduled for the boating activities in Iceland. Needless to say, once I was kitted out with not one but two wetsuits, I was indeed spotted wind surfing in a freshwater lake that measured only 4°C! Other highlights included walking on Langjökull glacier, enjoying the thermal pools at Íþróttamiðstöðin Borg, the Iceland Centenary Gilwell Reunion, the daily sauna and lake swim in Finland, relaxing at the Huima Spa, and eating reindeer stew during International Day in Helsinki.



The next Iceland Jamboree will be held in July 2014 so start your fundraising now if you would like to go!



Preparations are accelerating towards our Waratah camp in November. Letters were sent to all eligible Scouts last month and the updated Waratah promotional website has now been migrated alongside the new Region website: [www.waratah.greaterwestscouts.com.au](http://www.waratah.greaterwestscouts.com.au)

Registration for all participants closes on Friday 19th October. Application forms and details of the pre-Waratah activities are available from the above website. Don't forget that up to two Scouts over the age of 14 can also be included in each team!

Application forms have also been published online for our new Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship. Investiture of members is scheduled for the Saturday evening of our Waratah camp.

**Back to the Bush** is our current campaign for Venturer Units to use the warmer months ahead to get more active in the outdoors. Getting back to the basics of bushwalking and camping is a key theme in our programming and I look forward to receiving many A1 forms over the coming weeks and months.

Finally, thank you to Steve Wallace for coordinating our Leadership Course last month. All participants had an enjoyable time and learnt a lot over the weekend.

**Aaron Wardle - RC Venturer Scouts**  
[venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au](mailto:venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au)

## REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM

It's getting closer. You can feel it coming; and no I am not talking about Christmas. (That can wait a few more months). I am talking about warmer weather. It's when all the activity bears come out of hibernation ready to stretch out and get stuck into what is happening on the activities front!

If you haven't done so already, take a look at the new GWSR Website. It has recently been updated, (with a huge thank you to Matt Thompson). While there, go to <Activities> and then to the <Activities Calendar> and see what is currently happening. We have Top Rope Courses, Abseiling Courses, a Caving weekend, a five day Sailing Course, Canoe Courses and to keep us all safe, a First Aid Course. And to help keep our Scouting skills up to pace we also have **Ratskin**. Run by Venturers from Golden West Region, Ratskin is where teams of Leaders get together to compete against each other over a weekend of fun, frolicking, and just a touch of bribery along the way. GWSR took both 1st and 2nd place last year and we are keen to maintain our high ranking.

One of the fun things on the activities front are the Mobile Climbing walls. A big thank you to Fred Kaltenbacher and his lovely wife Theresa, along with a number of Venturers, who spent the whole day running the wall at the Rouse Hill Anglican College Harvest Festival. Certainly a great opportunity to show off Scouting to the local community.



Many leaders are rightly becoming concerned that with the new **SIS10 training** supposedly coming into play from the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012, that they will be unqualified after that date, and hence unable to do any activities with our youth. The SIS10 system will be a great asset to all of us, however the changeover is proving to be a huge task, with many challenges having to be still sorted out by Scouts NSW.

*"At GWS we will continue to carry out our activities as we have always done. With a high level of safety and diligence, as we have always done. We will continue to do this until such a time we have been provided with clear instructions on the procedures, requirements, RPL'ing etc, in regard to the new system. If that takes 6 months, well so be it. The last thing I want to see happen is youth missing out"... especially on my watch!*

I mentioned last month how I set a challenge for myself. To hike 100km in 24 hours. Well I didn't make it but I'm certainly not disappointed. I covered 81km in 24.5 hours, before having to retire with knee problems. The best thing is that our team raised over \$1,500 for people much less fortunate than ourselves.

My new challenge is aimed at our Rovers and Leaders. Why not put a team of 4 together for next year's event. It would be great to see Scouts represented in an event like this, and all for a good cause. I will say it is certainly not for the faint hearted!

Spring has sprung. Time to get out; get active, have adventurous \_ \_n, and be activity \_ \_ f \_! .....you know the score!

**Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities**

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



### NSW King's and Queen's Scouts' Reunion Dinner

Scouts Australia NSW are looking for all King's and Queen's Scouts interested in taking part in the inaugural Reunion.

Please send your name, Scout Group, the year you received your award, email and contact details to [jan.goodall@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:jan.goodall@nsw.scouts.com.au)

**We will contact you shortly with relevant details.**

Thanking you, in anticipation of your support.  
Jan Goodall, Deputy Chief Commissioner (YP)  
Mobile: 0413 453 596

Scouts Australia NSW,  
Level 1, Quad 3, 102 Bennelong Pkwy,  
Sydney Olympic Park, NSW, 2127, Australia  
P: 9735 9000 | F: 9735 9001

## ROCK RELATED ACTIVITIES

### COMING ACTIVITIES

**Abseil Course:** Tuesday 23rd October (theory at Bundilla) and 27th and 28th October (Practical at Bowen Mtn. and Yellow Rock).

**Scout Abseil Badge Course:** Sunday 16th September, with theory on a suitable night during the week before.

**Caving Course:** 19th September (theory at Bundilla) and 22nd and 23rd September (practical at Bungonia).

**Rescue (Recovery) Course:** Sunday 4th November at Bowen Mountain.

**Canyon Trip:** Sunday 11th November to Birragang Canyon. No abseils or swims, so suitable for Scouts. Also Sunday 2nd December, to River Caves and Deep Pass Canyons.

**Caving Trip:** 17th and 18th November.

**Venturer Canyon Course:** 24th and 25th November.

**Special courses for individual groups can be arranged by contacting Rick Jamieson**

**The complete year's program is on our web site**

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

A1 forms are on the greaterwestscouts website in the **Activities** calendar section. Applications (on the A1 Form) should be sent to the Region Office two weeks before the course. Two-day and three-day courses cost \$30, One-day trips \$10, Scout Proficiency Badge courses \$10 (one-day) or \$20 (two-day). **No charge for theory nights.**



GWS Scouts coming out of Birrabang Canyon

**Rick Jamieson**  
RRA Coordinator  
Phone: 4572 1321  
Email: [rickj15@bigpond.com](mailto:rickj15@bigpond.com)



Congratulations to James Chapman who has been recognised by St John Australia and will receive his award at their Annual Awards Ceremony on October 6.

James was helping his brother Matthew, remove a large window on a work site when the window broke and a large piece of glass fell on Matthew's arm, resulting in a partial amputation.

James took control of the situation, calming his older brother, controlling bleeding and performing First Aid which he had learned during his eight years as a Joey, Cub and Scout. James' prompt and efficient action helped to save Matthew's arm.

*Congratulations!*

### THE SCOUT SHOP

85 Wentworth Street , Port Kembla NSW 2505  
Ph: 4274 1193 Fax: 4274 6334

### OPENING HOURS

Mon. Tue. Wed: 9am - 4.30pm  
Thursday: 10am - 4.30pm  
Friday: 9am - 4.30pm  
Saturday: 9am - 12pm



## **RAYS OUTDOORS LIDCOMBE**

Extend an Invitation to all families from

## **SCOUTS AUSTRALIA – NSW**

For a private shopping evening to be held at

**82 Parramatta Road, Lidcombe**

**Date: Wednesday, 26.9.2012**

**Time: 5.30 to 8.30pm.**

This event will allow families to purchase any gear required for Jamboree next year.

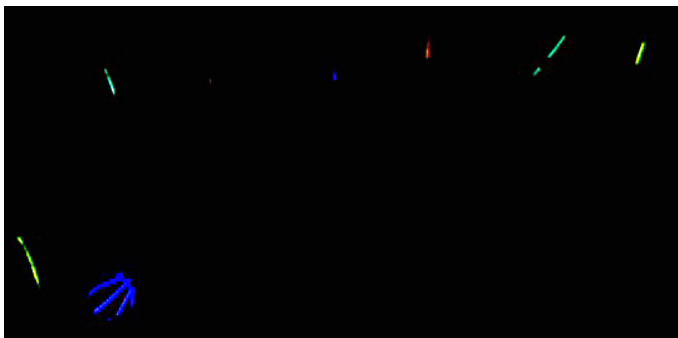
We offer **20% OFF** Retail Price storewide with the following exceptions  
Exceptions: **10% OFF** Engel & Waeco Fridges, GPS, Weber BBQ's



## RADIO, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

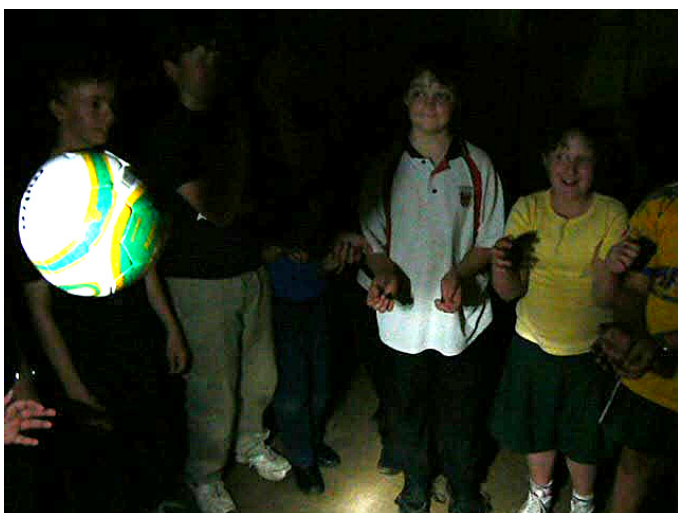
### *Ball Games in the Dark*

In our Light night we have two ball games in the dark. In the first **the ball itself is lit** internally so the Cubs can see where the ball is. But where do you throw it if you cannot see anyone? We give each Cub a glow stick to fix through their woggle or shirt button hole. Now they have something to aim at!



Our last game of the night is throw the white ball while standing in a tight circle. The **area is lit by a fast strobe**, so it is pretty easy to throw and catch the ball. The strobe flash rate is gradually turned down, you can see the ball clearly - **where it was a few milliseconds ago!** This of course makes it more difficult to catch, until at slower flash rates it is impossible to catch.

This game has to be the last of the night, because the Cubs become somewhat noisy and excited after it!



### *Recent Chemistry nights*

The Chem night for Cubs is based on the element **Sulphur**. The powdered Sulphur is shown to the Cubs and they can feel and smell it. Some Sulphur is then heated until it is a yellow liquid. This is poured into water to produce the yellow crystalline form, which they can feel and break up. The rest is heated until it turns a dark brown thick liquid which catches fire, producing irritating Sulphur Dioxide fumes.

This flaming syrup is poured into water to form the plastic phase of Sulphur, which is again passed around to stretch and explore.

The last demonstration is lighting a mixture of Zinc and Sulphur powders with a Magnesium wire, producing a bright green flame and white cloud of Zinc Sulphide.



### THE RADIO, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TEAM

John Leahy

john.leahy@nmi.gov.au

Home phone: 4572-1549

Work phone: 8467-3592

Karl Humphreys

ets0@bigpond.com.au

(M) 0408 205 649

Lillian Ewe

lillianewe@hotmail.com

## ***GWS WATER ACTIVITIES REPORT***

In the well-known words of Lara Bingle, "Where in \*\*\*\* \*\* are you?" The picture says it all about the number of youth members actively involved in Water Activities during Winter.



Although it may have been cold, wet and windy on occasions during the past three months, GWS Water Activities have had an active program running throughout Winter, with a series of Recreational Paddles on the Hawkesbury available to members wishing to strengthen and develop their paddling skills.



Four 30 km, one way, recreational paddles have successfully taken place and have been utilised by Leaders and Supporters as training runs for the upcoming 111km Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, on October 27. Anjie Lees, the Group Treasurer from 1<sup>st</sup> North Rocks, is showing a hardy determination to complete the Hawkesbury Classic, along with the National Head Office staff member, Elke van Ewyk and her friend Anne Lloyd-Green.

Activities completed so far have been;

the first paddle for 30 km from Windsor to Sackville in bleak rainy conditions a 5.5 hour paddle,

the second paddle, another 30kms from Sackville to Wiseman's Ferry, a 6 hour paddle in choppy conditions and predominantly against the tide,

the 3<sup>rd</sup> paddle from Wiseman's Ferry to Spencer, accomplished in brilliant sunny weather in a remarkable 3 hours 9 minutes of non-stop paddling achieving a top speed of 11.7kph with the tide

and a repeat of the 30km Windsor-Sackville half against and half with the tide, achieved in 4 hours 3 minutes!

The skill levels of the paddlers taking part have improved dramatically and they have been provided with the experience to cope with most conditions they are likely to encounter along the Hawkesbury and a first-hand understanding of how to undertake canoe journeys in a variety of conditions.

### **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

**Canoe Course 6th - 7th October** at Putney. Applications close 21st September 2012. Course fee \$40.

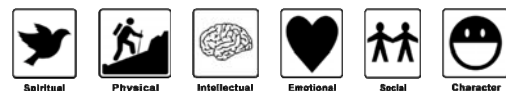
**Canoe Course 20th - 21st October** at Putney. Applications close 5th October 2012. Course Fee \$40 (Holroyd District has first preference on this course).

**Tracey Hansford**

**Scouts Australia NSW**

**Email: [Tracey.Hansford@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:Tracey.Hansford@nsw.scouts.com.au)**

**Do you know what these symbols represent?**



**Are you ensuring that your Programmes cover all these aspects?**

**Have you attended a mandatory information session on the Areas of Personal Growth?**

If you have not attended one of the AoPG information sessions please speak to your District Leader at your next District meeting. We can arrange to hold some more information sessions at a suitable time and venue.

## THE BOATS ARE BECKONING

If you want to have fun on the water, the Scout Water Activities Centre, Sydney Harbour (SWASH) is the place to be. Here you will experience; a breath of fresh air as you sail, the exhilaration of the rapids as you canoe down the river and the zoom of the Zodiac as you power around one of the world's greatest harbours.



- **Water Activities Days** show everyone the time of their lives out on glorious Sydney Harbour through a one day familiarisation experience in sailing, power boats and canoes, and include a BBQ lunch and SWASH badge.
- **Courses in sailing, canoeing, and power boating** are run at various levels. These include a course in canoeing specially for Cub badge work and an assessment course for NSW Maritime Boat License. That's right you can earn your boat license within the Scout Association, as well as Drive a Small Power Boat or Sail a Dinghy certification from Yachting Australia.

We are always looking for new Activity Leaders. If you would like join the team, you need to have Level 2 or 3 Scout qualifications in Power Boating, Canoeing or Sailing. We can arrange training if you are not qualified. While some of the team are permanently attached to the Water Activities Centre, many of our Leaders are actually from a Scout Group and come down to help whenever they are able. These Leaders then take their skills back, so their Group can have fun on the water.

We also encourage Scouts, Venturers and Rovers to assist us on Water Activities Days whenever they can. This provides you with a wonderful opportunity to continually improve your boating skills, earn new badges, add to your logbook and experience the wonderful fellowship of Scouting as part of the vibrant SWASH team.

**Interested? To find out more, you can contact us:**

**Phone: 9817 1874**

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## 1<sup>st</sup> YACKANDANDAH CUB PACK

**Brendan Richards (Mang) 1<sup>st</sup> Kings Langley**

On June 14, I visited the 1<sup>st</sup> Yackandandah Cub Pack in Victoria. The Cubs and their parents/guardians were constructing cars out of blocks of wood with wheels. The cars were given a good sanding and some paint or felt marker touch-ups. The Cubs were really enthusiastic about creating their handiwork as a prelude to the District Cub Car Race which was to be held later in the month.



## 1st/2nd BLACKTOWN SCOUT GROUP

Josh Connor and Amanda Wade from 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Blacktown Scout Group have made history, with Josh becoming the first Scout in the Group to ever have earned his Green Cord and Amanda, going one better and becoming the first to ever achieve the Australian Scout Medallion.

In December 2011, Amanda Wade approached Kmart at Blacktown and organised to run their Christmas Wishing Tree Charity. Amanda attended all Scout Groups within the District and promoted the charity. On two different Saturdays, she set up a sausage sizzle outside K-Mart. Normal sausage sizzle prices were set, BUT if you bought a gift for the Wishing Tree, then you got the Sausage Sizzle and drink for FREE. Due to her ingenuity and work, 2011 was Blacktown Kmart's Wishing Tree most successful ever.

In April this year, Josh, along with three other Scouts hiked by themselves from along the Great North Walk from Galston Gorge to Brooklyn Station, staying overnight at Berowra Waters and Jerusalem Bay. Many weeks of preparation went into the hike, notifying the Police, National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Scouts had to be very careful with their packs, making sure that they carried all they needed for three days, but trying to keep the weight down at the same time.

A couple of weeks later, Amanda also undertook her Green Cord Hike, also following the Great North Walk, from Wondabyne Station to Somersby.

After their hikes, they both had to compile logs of their hikes complete with all bearings taken along the route, drawings of significant locations, estimated measurements of landmarks including bridges and dams. These logs had to be submitted (and re-submitted) for them to be approved by Region.

### BRAVO Josh and Amanda!



**Josh and Amanda  
proudly display their Awards following  
the presentation ceremony.**



**Back row L to R: Robin Garrett (RC Scouts), Mark Fell (RC Activities), Ross Howlett (DC Blacktown), Amanda Wade, Joshua Connor, David Stopps (Deputy RC) and Neville Henderson (RC)  
Kneeling: Tracey Stopps ASL and Glenn Connor SL  
1st/2nd Blacktown**

**Photos: Elena Connor, Group Secretary,  
District Secretary and proud Mum**

## BLACKTOWN CITY GAMES JAMBOREE

The Blacktown District Scouts, Air League, Army Cadets and the Girl Guides all participated in the first ever Blacktown City Games Jamboree, held at Nurragingy Reserve in August.

It was aimed at showing that there are several community Groups that give young people the opportunity to develop their talents and showcase their skills.

The children started camping on Friday night, before a round robin of activities on Saturday, which included a *climbing wall*, *sumo wrestling*, *orienteering* and even a *simulated minefield* at the Army cadets' area. The *Tower of Power* from the Scouts went off with a bang again! On Sunday the groups went head-to-head for a bit of friendly rivalry. They all competed in *tug of war*, the *climbing wall* (the Scouts won this one), *volleyball* and *sack and wheel barrow races*. Preparation for the weekend has been under way since February and more than 260 children from the four groups attended and had a great time.





The ever popular challenge of the climbing wall and tug -a -war, which requires concentration , strength and determination, such as can be seen in the faces of these Scouts.

Photos courtesy of David Stopps  
Deputy RC, GWSR

## THE BULLETIN

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.

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