



The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 406 - February 2013



ROBERT BADEN - POWELL

22nd February 1857 - 8th January 1941

FOUNDER OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

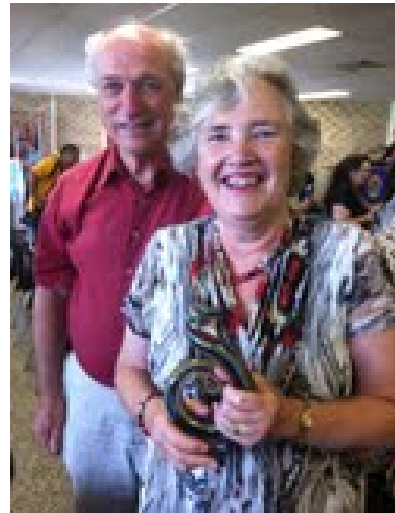
This beautiful life size bronze sculpture of Lord Baden Powell takes pride of place on Poole Quay, Dorset, England to celebrate Poole's Scouting connections.

BP is seated on the water's edge, wistfully looking across the harbour to Brownsea Island where the first Scout camp was held in August 1907.

Happy Birthday to our Founder

Holroyd City Council 2013 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

DR JEANIE WOOD



Jeanie with proud husband Lyall Wood.

Sincere congratulations to Jeanie Wood

Group Leader

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

Musical Director

Cumberland Gang Show and

Volunteer ESL teacher

St Anne's Anglican Church, Merrylands.

Jeanie's most well deserved award, was presented in recognition of her 30 years of community service.

Working with children is one of Jeanie's greatest loves.

Photo:

Brendan Richards ACSL 1st Kings Langley

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

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Website: www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER

I hope you all had a relaxing Christmas break and are ready to start the new Scouting year refreshed and ready to go! I enjoyed a small break and have been back in the saddle since the middle of January.

To those Leaders and Scouts who went to the Jamboree in Maryborough, I hope you had a great time and will have lots of stories to tell over the next few months. Aren't you glad you arrived home when you did and were not in Queensland when the floods hit. We are thinking of our colleagues up north and hope they came through the storm unscathed.

I have been invited to attend the opening of the Allan G Ezzy Community Centre at Greystanes this month. Allan was a councilor at Holroyd for over 38 years and has been a great supporter of Scouting in GWS. I will pass on our congratulations to him on being recognised by the council.

The asset management fee invoices have been posted to Groups and I am pleased to advise that the Insurance Committee have been able to negotiate terms which result in no increase in this year's premiums (only inflation increase in value).

My Region and District Teams will be gathering on 17th February for a training session to work out how we can make scouting enjoyable for all in GWS in the coming year. David Stopps and myself will be attending a Region Commissioner's Forum on 9/10 February and will be able to discuss a number of issues that were carried over from last year.

With recent changes to the laws regarding beds at camp sites we have had to replace 26 of our bunk beds and these are now at Bundilla ready to be assembled and put in place. Thanks to Deputy Region Commissioner, David Stopps for arranging an excellent price for us.

A message from the Chief Commissioner

"It has been decided that as from 1st February 2013 there will be no further appointments to the role of Associate Leader.

Those members who already hold an Associate Leader appointment will be able to retain their appointment until their next normal adult leader appointment review. At this review they are to be

given the option of either continuing their Training to obtain a Certificate of Adult Leadership or become a Parent Helper. If they decide to become a Parent Helper they can no longer wear the Scout Uniform but may wear the Group Scarf and a Group "T" shirt.

If they decide to continue with Training they will need to be transferred to e-Learning (if not already there) to start from the beginning and complete all associated Training required for a Certificate of Adult Leadership.

There will be a period of grace but all existing Associate Leader appointments must cease by 31st December 2014. Attached is a list of Associate Leaders on a Region by Region basis for your information.

The removal of the Associate Leader appointment will be of benefit to Groups as they will no longer have to pay for adults who cannot be left solely in charge of youth members at any time whether it be a meeting or an activity".

Hope to have a chance to get out and about and meet many of you in 2013 and be able to find out ways we can be of assistance to you at Region level.

I will be able to advise the number of nominations for the Adult Recognition Awards in my March report. At the time of writing it is 50.

Until next time.....carry on Scouting.

Neville Henderson

Region Commissioner

Email: rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au

*be prepared...
for new adventure*

CERTIFICATE OF CURRENCY (Public Liability Certificate)

The 2012 - 2013 Scouts NSW Insurance Certificate Of Currency is available on the Scouts NSW Website.

You can download the PDFs of both the general certificate and the Bunnings Fundraising BBQ certificate at www.nsw.scouts.com.au

JOEY SCOUT REPORT

I hope everyone had a great Christmas break filled with summer activities, Australia Day Flag raising ceremonies, Bunnings BBQ's and the like.

I attended the Future Scout Day at the Australian Jamboree in Maryborough. I took my Joey and Cub along and we had a great time. I met our Joey State Commissioner at the NSW Contingent Headquarters and was promptly invited to have my photo taken behind Kenny Kookaburra; my Cub and Joey were then promptly supplied with buckets of water and sponges - yes I got soaked! Lynn - I will remember this, the favour will be returned plus interest!



Joey Scout Fun Day

To be held at Bundilla on the **19th May 2013**. The theme is: ***This is Australia***. By now the Joey Leaders should have received A1's and a Poster for the Joey Fun Day and each District should be preparing their activity base ideas. The fees this year will be \$20/Joey \$10/helper. Region funds are very tight this year so unfortunately we had to increase the fees. If you are going to need to claim reimbursements for your bases, please email me with your budget so I can approve it up front.

GWSR Joey Muster

Planning has progressed on our Region Joey Camp to be held on **September 27 & 28, 2014** with the theme: ***Scouting for Joeys***. We have booked Castle Mountain (Webbs Creek, near Wisemans Ferry). At this month's Wandarrah we are going to be calling for volunteers to take on planning roles for the Camp. Our goal is to announce this to all the Joeys at this year's Joey Fun Day, not before, as a lot of today's Joeys will be in Cubs by then.

February Wandarrah

This month's Wandarrah will be about Leader Recruitment. Between now and the Wandarrah, please have a think about what you can do to recruit new Leaders. I am going to ask all mobs to include a list of ideas in their monthly mob reports.

Remember, if you can't make it to the Region Wandarrah, there are Wandarrah's held in Hills, Blacktown and Penrith Districts. Leaders are invited to **attend any of them**.

Brian Zarth (Magpie) - RC Joey Scouts

Email: joeys@greaterwestscouts.com.au



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

Daniel Ryan	1st Ermington
Lucy White	1st Carlingford
Charlize Walters	1st Carlingford
Abigail Kinloch	1st Quakers Hill/Doonside
Angel Poi	1st Carlingford

HOP - HOP - HOP

CUB SCOUT NOTES

Welcome back to what is going to be another busy year for Cub Scouts and their Leaders, culminating in Cuboree 2014 at Cataract Scout Park.

I have received many enquiries about Cuboree and hopefully the Cuboree website will go live next week, so that should answer most of your questions.

A **Cub Scout Leadership Course** will be held at Bundilla on **Saturday 9th March**. Invitations to attend the course are with your District Leader Cub Scouts; please ensure you attend Seonee to obtain all the relevant forms and info or contact your DLCS asap, so that your cubs have plenty of time to apply - as no late applications will be accepted. **Closing date: 1st March**.

A **Youth Leadership Course** will be held at Bundilla on **Saturday 6th April**. If you have young people working with you at the Pack please remind them of the Course. Applications should be made on the **L1 Training Course Application**, available on the GWSR website. Forms and money need to be at the Region Office by **Thursday 28th March**.

The **Region Seonee Program** is available on the website, please check to see that there is no clash of dates, as you plan your Group and District events.

All **CSL's** are asked to submit their **term Programs** to their DLCS as soon as possible. **Weekly Programs** should be readily available when a DLCS pays a visit to your pack meeting!

Declining numbers in both youth members and leaders is a major concern to all of us involved in Scouting and will be a hot topic for discussion at our RC's forthcoming Region Team Day. We are well aware that many Packs are very small and in imminent danger of being unable to continue. If you fall into this category - what are you doing to help recruit new members. If you have a waiting list, what is it that you are doing so well in your Group? If you have any good ideas please share them with your fellow Leaders at Seonee or send me an email, thank you. We really need to work together to stop the drop!

We are keen to update and improve the information available on the GWSR website for the Cub Scout section to make it a valuable resource.

If anyone has Programs, suggestions for suitable bushwalks, games or any other ideas they care to share with other CS Leaders, then please email them to the webmaster or myself as soon as you can. Hard copies can be left at Region Office for me to collect. Please note that the **2012 Palanee Programs** are available on our website now.

Anne Thompson - RC Cub Scouts

Email: cubs@greaterwestscouts.com.au



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

Matthew Duncan - 1st St Marys
Joshua Matthews - 1st St Marys

1 - 2 - 3 - WOOF

1st Greystanes Scout Group



We are inviting all ex-members and affiliates to celebrate on **Sunday 10th March 2013** at our Scout Hall in Hampden Rd, Sth Wentworthville. For further information and to RSVP email [Trevor red18design@gmail.com](mailto:red18design@gmail.com) or contact us through our website at <http://1stgreystanes.webs.com/>

Celebrate 60 Years 1953-2013



NSW Contingent
HQ at AJ13

TRAINING REPORT

As you have read in the RC's report, Scouts Australia NSW has decided that as from 1st February 2013 there will be no further appointments to the role of Associate Leader and those leaders who already hold the appointment will have their appointment reviewed as soon as possible. At this review (done by the Group leader) the Associate leader is to be given the option of either continuing their training to obtain a Certificate of Adult Leadership or to become a parent helper. If they decide to become a parent helper they can no longer wear the scout uniform but may wear a group T-shirt.

Those Associate leaders opting to continue their training need to fill in a W3 form transferring from an **AL** to a **AJSL** in training or a **ACSL** in training or a **ASL** in training. If they have not been logged onto e-learning they will also have to fill in an L8 form. The transfer comes at a cost of \$40 as these Leaders will now need the section manuals. These are available from the Region Office.

The change has been brought about by the confusion of having Leaders in uniform who can not be left responsible for the youth members. Parents have the perception that Leaders in uniform are all fully trained and responsible.

The new training calendar for 2013 has been added to the NSW website. There are less courses being offered now, due mainly to the cost of hiring the training facilities, so it is important that all Leaders doing e-learning plan their training, so that they are ready to attend a course that is nearby. Applications for a course must be sent in one month before and sent to the State Office. It is important to have all e-learning modules completed at that time.

The e-learning site is continually changing with updates added as new information comes to hand. Please review your modules particularly those doing advanced learning. There have been a number of changes, one of which is that the AoPG units we all did last year are now incorporated into the e-learning. Advanced weekends will be offered this year so once again plan your training.

Congratulations to Lisa Nicholls for achieving her Wood Badge in Cubs. Also congratulations to Gavan Hall for achieving a second Wood Badge as a Leader of Adults, to go with his Cub Wood Badge.

Kathy Cuneo RC AT&D

Email: training@greaterwestscouts.com.au



*Congratulations to the following
Leaders who have gained
their Wood Badge*

LISA NICHOLLS

1st/2nd Blacktown

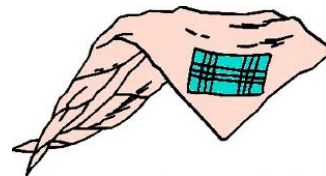
CUB SCOUT WOOD BADGE

GAVAN HALL

Hills South District

LEADER OF ADULTS WOOD BADGE

Bravo - Well done!



Get hooked on hockey in 2013

Junior Girls and Boys

- Ages 6 and over
- Beginners modified games
- Mixed boys and girls junior competition
- Safe and caring environment
- April to August competition (school term 2 and 3)
- Minimal cost
- Teams are coached
- Training is Thursday nights 6pm to 7pm

One venue on Saturday mornings

Three games time slots 9am, 10am and 11am
Games are played at the Old Saleyards Hockey Complex
Gladstone Street, North Parramatta

Senior Womens competition also available on Saturday afternoons

2013 Junior and Senior Registration night Thursday 21st February 6pm to 7pm

Email or phone now to indicate your interest in playing to:

Julie Brechin (Club President)

Email: jbpoppin@bigpond.net.au

Mobile: 0402 852 358



**Wentworthville
Hockey Club**

www.wentyhockey.org.au

FROM THE SCOUT DEN

Welcome to 2013. We trust everyone has had a great holiday and, for those who participated, a great Jamboree.

Jamboree

The Jamboree was a great success. There was dirt and mud, heat and humidity, and it was fantastic. Our Scouts had a great time. Starting with a road trip that took quite a few hours (with little sleep for anyone on the coach!) GWSR participants spent 10 days at Jamboree enjoying activities such as Challenge it! Splash it! Climb it! Clown it! Explore it! and Love it! They met new people and made new friends and had the time of their life.

Yes, there were a few cases of sunburn and some dehydration here and there, a few sprains, a headache or two and a lot of tired Scouts and Leaders. It wouldn't be a Jamboree if that didn't happen. But think about what our Scouts did; where else but Jamboree could a Scout spend his or her summer holidays going to concerts and see Jessica Mauboy, Reece Mastin, Justice Crew, and Timomatic, and where they could go snorkelling, Zorb-balling, canoeing and sailing off the Sunshine Coast, and where they could take part in an 'amazing race' in a historic city and visit Australia Zoo? Sounds like a pretty Jam-packed summer holiday!

A big **thank you** to our Scouts for representing GWSR and making us proud of you all. And a big **thank you** to our Leaders for the time they gave up to make Jamboree an experience of a lifetime for our Scouts. By the look of the sneaky photos, it seems a number of you were so tired, you had to have *nanny* and *poppy* naps while the Scouts were out on activities.

New Assistant Commissioner (Scouts)

We welcome Belinda Francis "Bel" to the role of Assistant Commissioner (Scouts) for GWSR and hope she will enjoy her new role. Bel's main focus will be on the delivery of youth programs, including Scout Youth Councils (SYC). Over the coming year Bel will work with each District and the Region to assist in the development and sharing of programs to excite and motivate our Scouts to achieve, and in establishing SYC within each of our Districts. We hope you will assist and encourage your Scouts to become involved in SYC – a valuable forum for Scouts to be empowered to contribute to the local and national Scouting movement.

Bel will also be managing the Scout calendar for 2013. If you have dates you'd like to add to the calendar or changes to make, please send the details to scouts@greaterwestscouts.com.au

Desirable Standards

Throughout this year we will also start visiting Troops to assist you, where we can, to run your programs and achieve your goals in the Desirable Standards. If you would like another copy of the Desirable Standards so you can measure where your Troop has been and set goals for this year, they can be found on the Region website and on Patrolment. Alternatively, request a copy from Bel, Col or myself by sending an email to: scouts@greaterwestscouts.com.au

Bel, Col and I look forward to an exciting year of growth and enjoyment in the Scout section.

Robin Garrett - RC Scouts

Email: scouts@greaterwestscouts.com.au





Smash It!



Troop H06



VENTURER REPORT

Welcome back to another exciting year. The Venturer section has already been busy during the school holidays with several Leaders volunteering at the **Australian Jamboree in Maryborough** and a huge contingent of over 30 Venturers attending the **New Zealand Venture in Riverton**. I was fortunate to meet up with members from the Region at both events and must congratulate our Venturers on being excellent ambassadors for our Region.

Whilst Maryborough was tremendously hot, the event ran very smoothly. I would like to make mention of the Venturer Leaders from **2nd Baulkham Hills** and **1st Carlingford (Mick, Joanne, David and Teresa)** on their **award winning gateway for NSW Contingent**. It was an absolute standout in the mall and a tribute to months of hard work and dedication.

In Riverton, the weather was (not surprisingly) much cooler and a pleasant change from two weeks in Queensland. I got to enjoy several of the onsite activities including model aircraft flying and a spirited round of paintball, as well as visiting some of the off-site activities including high ropes, the Invercargill day out, and a stopover in Bluff.

The pre-tour was probably the biggest highlight of the journey and full congratulations must go to Gary Steinhardt and his team for organising such an amazing adventure.

With roughly two Australians for every Kiwi, it almost felt like being at home, but the traditional Maori culture certainly showed through with some great cultural entertainment and a rather interesting Haka competition – especially when performed by the Australians! Needless to say, the Venturers had a wonderful journey in New Zealand and I am sure that many will be looking forward to other exciting international events in the future.

Back in the Region, I am pleased to announce that **Patrick Watts of 1st Oakville** completed his **Queen's Scout Award** at the end of last year and is to be congratulated on an excellent effort!

The **Region Venturer Calendar** for 2013 has been on the website since last September. Information on Venturer Courses in other Regions is also listed for everyone's convenience. Application forms for all of our courses are already published online and ready for use. I would encourage Venturers to apply early to avoid disappointment! (Our first course for the year – **Unit Management** – will be held at Bundilla on Sunday **March 10** and has a **closing date of February 22**).

Applications to **Dragon Skin... into the Wild** are now open and Units are actively finalising their team registrations and doing various preparations for the event. Many Scouts that have returned from the Jamboree are eligible to attend but will need to start meeting with their local Unit as soon as possible to finish their Venturing Skills bushwalk before Easter. Leaders are also invited to attend Dragon Skin to run bases or help on the BOOTS welfare team - so please be encouraged to submit your applications to attend as well.

For each Venturer team attending Dragon Skin, Venturer Leaders are encouraged to review their team's plans and ensure that they are properly prepared for the event. Please remember that **Dragon Skin is a lightweight camping activity** and all teams must be **fully self-sufficient** for the entire event. Previous years have seen a growing number of teams that have insufficient bushwalking experience and lack basic skills in how to pack their backpack, how to set up their tent, or even how to set up their cooking equipment. It is important to remember that the **Venturing Skills Award is a pre-requisite for attending Dragon Skin** and every Unit Council should be ensuring that their members have the skills, preparation and experience necessary to safely enjoy this event. Several useful resources are available from the Dragon Skin website including sample menus and minimum equipment lists.

Finally, our **Region Picnic Day** for the Venturer Scout section will be held on Saturday 16th February. As well as being a great social occasion, we will also be holding a brief RVSC and launching our promotions for Waratah 2013 – **The Amazing Race!** I look forward to seeing a good attendance from every Unit.

Aaron Wardle RC Venturer Scouts

Email: venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au

Mobile: 0421 076 497



AJ13 International Night



Tonga



New Caledonia



New Zealand



Aaron at Bluff, NZ



**Scenes from the
NZ Venture in
Riverton**

**Photos
Aaron Wardle**



REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM

Welcome back to you all for another year of fun and adventure.

Let me tell you a quick story. I was lying on a beach over the Christmas break. If I looked over one shoulder, there were a young group of Nippers learning how to ride a surf ski. If I turned to the other side, there were a couple of young boys engrossed in their iPad. It got me thinking. In this day and age of amazing electronic games are we actually taking the reality out of life skills? Kids who spend more time engrossed in an electronic pretend world, rather than getting out and experiencing life for real.

We aren't going to change the world, but at least for the youth we have in our care, we can do our utmost for them to learn and experience a new skill for real; to get out of that comfort zone, away from the cottonwool and learn by actually doing. Develop a skill set, build strong character, show leadership, learn teamwork, and provide a real sense of achievement and worth. ...and have a whole lot of fun doing it!

So with that thought in mind, **let the games for 2013 begin!**

Last year finished off with our Pirate Fun Day at Chipping Norton. A great day with equally great weather. A big thank you everyone who came along to share in the fun.



**Water Fun Day Photos courtesy
Alison Sullivan DLCS Blacktown**

While most activities don't really kick off again until February, there has been a lot happening over the break. We have had the climbing wall in action in Parramatta which is always a popular activity.

Of course there are many Scouts and Leaders who spent an incredible 10 days of total fun up at Maryborough, in Queensland, with AJ2013. There will no doubt be many great stories and yarns to be had from that experience.

At **AJ2013** everyone just had so much fun. In fact some had so much fun that they just simply ran out of puff and had to have a a....**BATNAP** (Guess who)!



Other more energetic Leaders having been to the Jamboree thought it would be good to take it easy for a whileand just hang out a bit.



And all this was happening during the Christmas Holidays. *Sounds like we are in for one very busy year.*

We do have one very exciting opportunity coming up this year!

2nd Castle Hill ran a very successful **trip to the snow** last year and are planning to do the same again this year, but this time are opening it up to the Region.

To be held **26th - 28th July 2013**, travelling by chartered coach to the **Scout Alpine Activity Centre in Jindabyne**. There will be opportunity to ski, snow board or just play in the snow building snowmen. The costs are still to be finalised, but will be around \$220.00 which covers travel, most meals, entry into

the Park and accommodation. Ski hire and lift tickets will be on top of this and will probably be around \$200.00 depending on what gear you require. Numbers will be limited and very much based on a *first in best dressed scenario*. For more details keep an eye on the GWS website, or you can contact Andrew Whiddon (2nd Castle Hill) on 0411 326 021.



All the activity teams are gearing up for another big year, with many dates already on the website for Canoe Courses, Caving weekends, Abseiling Courses etc.

So whether it is activities run by Region, or at the Group level, we are so very fortunate to be able to provide our youth with such great opportunities here at GWS. And it is you - yes **you**, the Leaders of GWS, all so willing to give our youth real life experiences in the skills of life and living.



It is simply, learning by doing.

And did I mention you are allowed to have a bit of adventurous fun along the way - but and do it safely!

Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities

Email: activities@greaterwestscouts.com.au

*GWSR Scout
at
West Pennant
Hills Rocks*



ROCK RELATED ACTIVITIES

Website Changes: The old Rock website (beprepared.com.au/gws) will no longer be used. This website has been provided free of charge by the computer people at NSW Scouts for many years.

Matt Thompson has done a great job of transferring all the relevant information from that website to the GWSR website (greaterwestscouts.com.au). For example, to access the Rock Calendar for 2013, go to: HOME – REGION – Activities – Rock Calendar 2013. The main Region calendar is still at: HOME – REGION – Calendar. This is where you go for example to download A1 forms for a particular activity.

COMING ACTIVITIES

Abseil Course: Tuesday 12th February (theory at Bundilla) and 16th and 17th February (practical at Bowen Mtn. and Yellow Rock). Also 4th and 5th May.

Rescue Course: Sunday 24th February at Bowen Mountain. Also 16th June.

Caving Course: 13th March (theory at Bundilla) and 16th and 17th (practical at Bungonia) of March.

Scout Abseil Badge Course: Sunday 24th March at West Pennant Hills, with a theory night during the week before.

Scout Caving Badge Course: 13th and 14th April at Wee Jasper.

Cave Trip: 18th and 19th May (venue to be advised).

Scout Top-Rope Climbing Course: Sunday 23rd June

(Special courses for individual groups can be arranged by contacting Rick).

A1 forms are on the greaterwestscouts website. Applications (on the A1 Form) should be sent to the Region Office (phone 9639 2488) 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). There is No charge for theory nights).

Rick Jamieson RRA Coordinator

Phone: 4572 1321

Email: rickj15@bigpond.com

Jamboree Travelling Tales from Troop H43

On the way home from AJ2013 the Leaders of Jamboree Troop H43 comprised of Scouts from 1st Blackheath, 1st Glossodia, 1st Hawkesbury and 1st Oakville, showed they know how to **"Be Prepared"**!

Just after their bus started out on its long journey home, it came to a steaming halt on the side of the road about 50km north of Gympie. It turned out that after sitting idle in a Maryborough field for two weeks a main radiator hose had split.

The driver, having flown up from Sydney did not have any tools with him. The Leaders sprang into action and rummaged through their luggage, producing duct tape and cable ties! With the addition of a patch cut from a plastic bottle found on the side of the road and a Swiss army knife (in the best tradition of **MacGyver**), the bus made it to Gympie where the hose was repaired, while Troop H43 relaxed in Gympie McDonalds for a late lunch.

Rose Smith (Panda)
1st Oakville Scouts



Last Science Nights of 2012

December started with a night off for us when a Group forgot we had an activity with them (not the first this year, but we managed to find substitutes for the others)!

This was followed by a **Water Rocket night** with Dural Cubs and Scouts, and a **Chemistry night** at Ermington Venturers: as it was their last meeting of the year, the Venturers had organised a BBQ before the Chem demo, and I just had to help them reduce the number of excess sausages they had left over from the last fund raiser; delicious, with bacon as well!

Science Nights Feb - Apr 2013

6 Feb Wed	Winston Hills	Venturers LN2
11 Feb Mon	Abbotsford	Joeys then Cubs Hover
20 Feb Wed	Dural	Cubs then Scouts Chemistry
25 Feb Mon	Oakville	Joeys + Cubs Arcs & Sparks
4 Mar Mon	Erskine Pk	Joeys + Cubs Heart
12 Mar Tue	Ermington	Joeys then Cubs Heart
3 Apr Wed	Carlingford	Joeys then Cubs Water Rockets
10 Apr Wed	QHD	Cubs Hover

Water Absorbing Plastics

We usually think of plastics as *repelling water* like PET bottles, PVC sheet, 'Glad' wrap and Polystyrene foam; or *water soluble* like Acrylic paints and white PVA glue.

There is another group of plastics that can *absorb water* many times their initial weight, without dissolving:

Water Crystals can absorb 200 times their weight in water and are used in decorative displays of flowers in vases, and growing plants in soil, where they slowly release water to the plants roots.

The name of the compound is *Polyacrylamide*. Half a teaspoon of the crystals in 100 mls of water solidifies almost immediately into 'jelly' as the crystals absorb the water, and expand to fill the container.

Known as ghost crystals; when a single crystal is suspended in a glass container it appears to contain only water and a small loop of thread hanging down. When the string is lifted out, a large soft shiny crystal is found to be in the loop. When the string is lowered

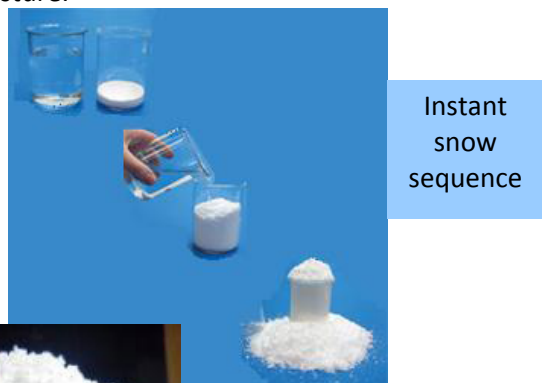
back into the water, the crystal disappears, again. This is because the material contains so much water, it presents the same refractive index as water, and no edge is visible.

The decorative ball form comes in hard clear or coloured 3mm beads, which absorb water over 8 hours to expand to 15mm solid gel, slippery, bouncy balls. Fun to play with but messy to clean up when you stand on them. Water crystals or balls can be purchased in garden departments or markets.

Instant Snow is formulated from the same type of water absorbing polymer used in disposable baby nappies, and is called *Polyacrylate*.

Snow starts as a fine white powder and when activated by water, will expand rapidly up to 50 times its original volume. The resulting white mush is damp and slippery, slightly cool, but does not melt (as real snow does). I got my sample from a supermarket around Christmas time (EZ Snow).

Both polymers are non-toxic, biodegradable, and environmentally safe. Do not dispose down drains (due to potential blockage problems), but to solid waste. Better still, dig them into your garden or flower pot to retain moisture.



THE RADIO, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TEAM

John Leahy john.leahy@nmi.gov.au
Home: 4572-1549
Work: 8467-3592

Karl Humphreys ets0@bigpond.com.au
(M) 0408 205 649

Lillian Ewe lillianewe@hotmail.com

APPOINTMENTS LIST

10/12/2012 - 28/1/2013



APPOINTMENTS

SMILLIE , Philip John	Appt TL (J)	1st Dural Joey Mob
O'MEARA MATTHEWS , Ellen Jane	Appt TL (S)	1st Whalan Scout Troop
WEISS , Maximilian Heinrich	Appt TL (S)	1st Whalan Scout Troop
SELWOOD , Shane David	Appt TL (G)	1st Winston Hills Scout Group
STEPHENS , Zoe Ann	Appt TL (J)	1st Carlingford Joey Mob
MCCREDDEN , Ann Margaret	Appt TL (C)	1st Ermington Cub Pack <i>Spurway</i>
HOSE , Grant Christopher	Appt TL (S)	1st Ermington Scout Troop
MOAT , Graeme Appt	TL (S)	West Pennant Hills Valley Scout Troop
COOK , Carol-Anne Appt	TL (J)	1st Carlingford Joey Mob

TRANSFERS

MACKIE , John Andrew	Fr SL To ASL	4th Castle Hill Scout Troop 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Troop
SIRIANNI , Serafina	Fr AL (G) To AL (S)	1st Dural Scout Group 1st Dural Scout Troop <i>Giwang</i>
SMITH , Ross Arnold	Fr Appt TL (S) To ASL	2nd Castle Hill Scout Troop 2nd Castle Hill Scout Troop
KNOX , Sandra Lee	Fr CSL To Appt TL V	1st Ermington Cub Pack <i>Spurway</i> 1st Ermington Venturer Unit
SHERWIN , Fiona Louise	Fr ASL To ASL	1st South Penrith Scout Troop <i>Gundooi</i> 1st South Penrith Scout Troop <i>Yee-Na-Pah</i>
STOPPS , Tracey Kim	Fr ASL To DSL	1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Troop Greater Western Sydney Region
BOXALL , Gregory Bruce	Fr AL (G) To AL (JS)	1st Winston Hills Scout Group 1st Winston Hills Joey Mob
CARDONA , Christopher Gary	Fr Appt TL (J) To AJSL	1st Erskine Park Joey Mob 1st Erskine Park Joey Mob
CARDONA , Karen Lee	Fr Appt TL (J) To AJSL	1st Erskine Park Joey Mob 1st Erskine Park Joey Mob
HOPKINS , Matthew	Fr AL (G) To AL (S)	1st Hawkesbury Scout Group 1st Hawkesbury Scout Troop
LOVE , David William	Fr ASL To Appt TL (V)	West Pennant Hills Valley Scout Troop West Pennant Hills Valley Venturer Unit
MCLENNAN , Honni Regina	Fr ACSL To CSL	1st Blackheath Cub Pack 1st Blackheath Cub Pack
SULLIVAN , Jenny Maria	Fr JSL To ASL	1st Erskine Park Joey Mob 1st Erskine Park Scout Troop

RESIGNATIONS

BELL, Dorothy Diane	AVSL	1st North Rocks Venturer Unit
BOSCH, Andrew Craig	AL (G)	2nd Northmead Scout Group
DOCHERTY, Josette	RL (Act)	Greater Western Sydney Region
FULLER, Anne Marie	AL (G)	1st Balcombe Heights Scout Group
HASLAM, Leanne Margaret	ASL	1st Kellyville Scout Troop 05/12/2012
MASON, Allan Bernard	RL (Act)	Greater Western Sydney Region
LOPEZ, Daniel Alejandro	AL (G)	1st South Penrith Scout Group

TRAINEE LEADERS NOT PROCEEDING

SAUNDERS, Martin James	Trainee Ldr (S)	1st North Mt Druitt Scout Troop 01/12/2012
HASKETT, Ellen Jane	Trainee Ldr (G)	1st South Penrith Scout Group

INTO RECESS

4th Castle Hill Cub Pack
4th Castle Hill Scout Troop

ROYAL EASTER SHOW SCOUT DAYS

2ND & 3RD APRIL 2013

Attention please, all Groups, Districts, Regions, Crews, and Fellowships...

Scout Days at the Royal Easter Show will take place over the final two days of the Show in 2013 - Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd April.

Kids at the Show get a taste of what being in the Scouts is like, with an array of fun and adventurous activities to try including; a Climbing Wall, Bazooka Water Guns, an Obstacle Course Success in 60 Seconds Challenges and Water Bottle Toss Golf.

We require the help of 75 Youth and Adult Members including Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders to cover a variety of jobs including setting up, running activities and managing registrations.

We would appreciate a commitment to a five hour shift.

If you are willing to help out on the day, please email: rosalie.batistoni@nsw.scouts.com.au or call 0421 079 903 or 9735 9034.

The Easter Show is a fun day out and a great opportunity to introduce people to the wonderful world of Scouting. We'd love to see you at Scout Day in 2013!

SCOUT JOB WEEKS

This annual event is a proud Scouting tradition and in 2013 Scouts across NSW will once again show their community spirit by lending a hand in their local communities and undertaking various jobs for a just reward.

Scouts have the opportunity to learn new skills, interact with people in their local neighbourhood and raise funds for their Scout Group. All money raised can be used to update equipment, refurbish Scout Halls and help fund future Scout activities.

Scout Job Week is the time to step up and be an active citizen in your community.

Register your interest today on the Scouts NSW website.

It's on again in 2013....

The 63rd Sirius Cup Regatta

8th to 10th March 2013

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, Lake Ginninderra and Lake Tuggeranong from the ACT, from the north (Belmont North, and 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 further details, please visit:
<http://siriuscup.webs.com/>
or email: siriuscup@yahoo.com.au

Mark it in your diary now!

Riverstone Cub Scouts Put the **Out** in Scouting

Alison Sullivan DLCS Blacktown

Riverstone Cub Pack attended the District Out and About day at ANZ stadium last November and did the behind the scene tour - a great day out was enjoyed by all. They then put some adventure into their Scouting, exploring Homebush Bay and even doing a little Geocaching!

Just before Christmas, Riverstone had a Group outing at Stanhope Gardens to help out with catching carp - they fished and had a bbq dinner. This was a nice outing and a great way to end the term!



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.

Submissions are to be made by the last day of the month preceding publication and may be edited for clarity or to fit available print space.

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