



The Bulletin

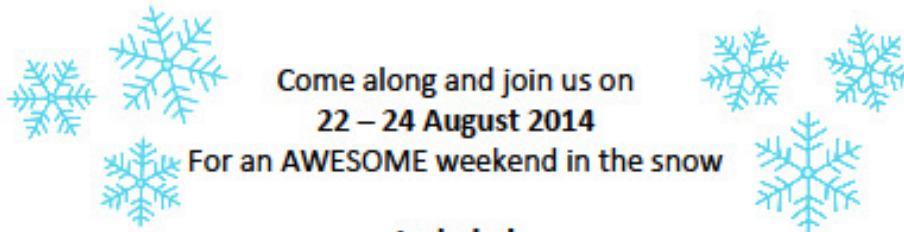
Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 418 - March 2014



Calling all Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders

GWS SNOW WEEKEND



Come along and join us on
22 – 24 August 2014

For an AWESOME weekend in the snow

Included

- 2 nights at the Scout Alpine centre
- 2 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches and 1 Dinner
- All transport including mountain transfers
- National park entry fees



SPECIAL EARLY BIRD OFFER

\$199*[^]

*Plus Gear hire and lift tickets

[^]When booked and paid before 30th April 2014.

Price will rise to \$220 after this date



THAT'S CHEAPER THAN LAST YEAR!

Places are limited so book your seat NOW!
For more info or to book your spot contact

GRUG

0411 326 021

gwssnowtrip@gmail.com

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

Website: www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER

I was privileged to be invited to attend the opening ceremony of the Parramatta District Swimming Carnival and was pleased to see the large number of youth members from Joeys to Venturers in attendance. Well done to the organisers.

We have now sent the Adult Recognition Award nominations and citations to State Office and it is now up to the State Committee to agree with our nominations. I believe that we received 74 nominations and a big thank you to Kim and Maggi for their work in getting them ready for submission to State Office.

I had the pleasure of attending the Queen's Scout Presentation at 1st Castle Hill for Danielle Barnett. Well done to Danielle, her Leaders, parents and Unit and I look forward to attending many more presentations in future.

Lorraine Shaw has transferred her role from a District Advisor to a Region Advisor. Thanks for the work you are doing for us in the Cub Scout section. Sandra Parker is being transferred to the role of Honorary Commissioner in recognition of her 30 years of service to the association!

David Stopps and myself attended the Chief Commissioner's Council recently and would pass on the information that the theme for the next year will be **Development** and we look forward to increasing our numbers and need your help to achieve our goal of 5% up on the current numbers.

You should have your dates set for your ARP and your financial books audited and your new committee in place for the next Scouting year.

Please advise Region Office of the date for your group's ARP in order that we may arrange a Region representative for your meeting.

I also attended the first rehearsal of Cumberland Gang Show and recommend you get in early for your tickets for a great show in 2014. It is a totally new format.

Please put the 15th June 2014 in your diaries for the Region ARP at Bundilla.

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

Neville Henderson
Region Commissioner

Email: rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au

be prepared...
for new adventure

TRAINING REPORT

Congratulations to those Leaders who have recently achieved their Wood Badge. It is hoped more Leaders will follow their example and do advanced training.

A number of Leaders are doing SIS10 activity training and it will be of great benefit to our youth to have so many Leaders with qualifications in outdoor activities. Well done to those Leaders who spent a very hot week and then a cooler week doing the summer camp for SIS10 at Cataract.

There are three main training weekends for basic training this year. March is the first one and it is pleasing that a number of our Leaders were able to do the course. Finish your training now by handing your in service to your PLA. The PLAs will be looking for it.

The next basic training weekend is in June and to do that course trainees must have finished both the basic core modules and the sectional technique modules on e-learning.

The first advanced course is to be held at the beginning of April with the closing date for applications at the beginning of March. To do an advanced course a Leader must have held a Certificate of Adult Leadership (CoAL) for 6 months and must have completed the advanced core module and the advanced sectional techniques modules.

Kathy Cuneo RC AT&D

Email: training@greaterwestscouts.com.au

*Congratulations to these Leaders who
have earned their Wood Badge*



**Andre Emery - 1st Westmead
Scout Wood Badge.**

**Virginia Klomp - 1st Ermington
Cub Scout Wood Badge.**

**Michelle Hose - 1st Ermington
Cub Scout Wood Badge**

**Ian Lutz - 1st Kellyville
Cub Scout Wood Badge**

**Joseph Doyle - 1st North Rocks
Cub Scout Wood Badge**



Bravo - Well done!

JOEY SCOUT REPORT

I spent Saturday helping out the latest JBST Course and it was great to see some GWSR Joey Leaders there as well as a good representation from the other Regions as well.

Time Flies when you are having fun and most of you would have easily completed your basic training well over 12 months ago - so I recommend that those that haven't done their advanced leader training, log onto E-learning and get back into it. It's a great refresher of what you have done and hopefully will advance your skills into better programming and Scouting.

This month we'd like to see all Joey Scout Leaders at their District Wandarahs. They are important for you to keep up to date with everything as well as a networking resource with your neighbouring Mobs. Come and share your ideas.

Jamboree on The Trail (JOTT)

Do you have anything planned, why not come to your District Wandarah and hook up with the mobs in your district and do it together? More the merrier and keep the OUT in Scouting.

Growing your Mobs

The Community knows about Scouts, but do they know about your Scout Group or your Joey Mob? Plan something visible in your local area. A group of Joeys in uniform (specially well behaved ones) visible in your local area will promote your group and let them know that you are active. So be OUT and be SEEN. Include these in your Term plans, so everyone knows well in advance and hopefully you will get good support.

2014 NSW State Konara

I hope most of you have submitted your registration forms by now to get the early bird discount. If not, then don't leave it until the last minute.

If your group hasn't been able to financially support your registration fees, please let us know and we will see what we can do. Some country mobs that are not very flushed with funds are doing their best to send some Joey Leaders along, it would be good if us city folk are able to provide a good showing.

2014 GWS Woonona

I've heard some good feedback from some mobs regarding responses to the Woonona, but it's still early days yet. I would like each mob to include something in their mob reports to Wandarah each month. specially as the first due date approaches.

Facebook - Joey Scout Resources

There is a new "closed" Facebook group that's been setup for sharing resources and ideas. Feel free to

apply to join and invite any leader in the Joey Section to join in. It is a closed group so it should be free from SPAM and other annoying Facebook invites. Note that the group is for resource sharing not policy/procedural stuff, please save that for Wandarahs

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/joeyscoutsnsw/>

Congratulations to Daniel Cook - 1st Carlingford who has earned his Promise Challenge award.

Brian Zarth (Magpie) - RC Joey Scouts

Email: joeysgreaterwestscouts.com.au



SCJS Lyn Mann presented four Promise Challenge awards to Joey Scouts at 1st Balcombe Heights.

REGION WEBSITE

**"Share Your Knowledge.
It's a way to achieve immortality."
Dalai Lama**

Have you just finished a Wood Badge Project?
Do you have a great resource that you feel is worth sharing with other Leaders?

Then send us an email and let us know about it!

The GWSR website is a great resource for all things Scouting in our Region and we would like to expand on the resources we can offer.

We have dedicated areas on the web for resources for each section, and a page that we would love to fill with Wood Badge projects. Follow this link to see where you could be published

<http://www.greaterwestscouts.com.au/region/resources/woodbadgeprojects>

**Send your contributions to:
webcontent@greaterwestscouts.com.au
and achieve immortality!**

CUB SCOUT NOTES

I would love to be able to report that the **GWSR website** team has been overwhelmed with useful information to go into the Cub Scout section, but sadly the response has been very poor. It seems we are happy to trawl through the internet for **Programming ideas** but don't want to share good ideas on our own site! Please - I ask you once again, send in your Programmes, bushwalk locations, games, etc. to make our own site a valuable source of information for all CSLs.

What have you done to increase awareness that your Cub Pack exists? It would be good to see **posters** in all the local libraries, shop windows, takeaway food outlets e.g. McDonalds and on community noticeboards advertising your location and time for Pack meetings.

Why not design your own poster and have the cubs colour them in and then get them into circulation? Get **out and about in uniform** whenever possible, set up an information table in your local shopping centre, hand out pamphlets, take names of people interested and follow up with them. We can't just standby and watch our numbers go down even further - everyone needs to try and stop the drop.

We also need to work more closely with other sections in the Group. Do some combined activities, encourage your older cubs to do the **Try Scouting** badge, so they are not worried about eventually linking to Scouts. Consider running the **Bring a Friend Programme** or at least a BAF night. If anyone has any ideas on how to recruit - please share them with us?

As announced previously, there is no State Cook Off this year; it has been replaced with the **Cub Pack Challenge**. I look forward to seeing all the weird and wonderful gadgets that the Cubs will come up with. You have until August 9 to get your gadgets made and ready for judging at Palaver.

Just a reminder that it is time to toss out all the old forms that have been printed out and stored! Most forms should be dated 2014 and are readily available on the State website or click on the link on the GWS website. I can no longer accept Grey Wolf forms dated before Jan '14. All Grey Wolf applications need to be handed in well before the Cub Scout's 11th Birthday to allow a bit of time to obtain, and present the award before they move up to Scouts.

Dates for your Diary

April 5 Cub Scout Leadership course (Closing date March 21)

May 10 Youth Helpers course (Closing date May 2)

Keep up the great work you are doing in your Packs!

Anne Thompson (Wontolla) - RC Cub Scouts

Email: cubs@greaterwestscouts.com.au

CUB PACK CHALLENGE 2014

CHALLENGE: Create a useful gadget (approx. size 600mm x 600mm)

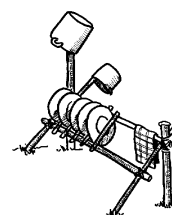
CRITERIA: Constructed by a natural Six. Must be useful. Made from natural materials.

JUDGING:

- Each Pack will judge their best entry.
- Each Region will choose their best entry. (GWSR entries will be judges at Palaver August 9 at Bundilla).
- The winning gadget goes to State level for judging for an overall winner. Judging will be conducted at the September Cub Council Meeting.
- Each entry that reaches the Region final will receive a special badge.
- Region winners will receive a Certificate.
- Prize for State winner.

Suggestion: May be done as part of your Pack Programme for 2nd term.

Please direct all enquiries to the RCCS - Get your thinking caps on and good luck!





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

Michael Squires - 2nd Baulkham Hills

Mitchell Ashton-Standring

1st Winston Hills

Robert Burrows - 1st Carlingford

Isaac Protegeros - 1st Carlingford

Corbin Ellis - 1st Kellyville

1 - 2 - 3 - WOOF



GWSR - APPLIED FIRST AID COURSE

17th May 2014

2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Hall, Jasper Rd

Pre-requisites: Nil

Start: 8:00am

Finish: 4:00pm or earlier

Down load A1 from Region calendar

Closing date 9/5/2014



Last winter Scouts, Venturers and Leaders from GWSR, along with guests from other Regions headed south for an action packed weekend in the snow. After a late arrival at the Alpine Activity Centre in Jindabyne, we snatched a few hours sleep before our early start to head up the mountain.

Upon arrival we collected our pre ordered hire gear before hitting the slopes of Perisher. Some of the group headed straight into lessons at Smiggins Holes so they could learn the ropes or improve their skills, whilst some of the more experienced Scouts headed straight for the lifts. We all enjoyed a full day on the mountain which included skiing, snowboarding, snowman building and snowball fights! After a day on the slopes we all boarded the coach to head back to the centre for a well earned shower and dinner. Many of the group opted for an early night in preparation for another busy day on the slopes!

Sunday saw another early morning start to ensure we got the maximum time possible on the snow. Some of us ventured a little further into the resort to explore new and more challenging runs. Another action packed day saw some very tired Scouts (and Leaders!) boarding the bus for the journey home.

We were lucky enough to experience excellent snow conditions, it even snowed a little, and a great time was had by all.

Due to the amount of fun everyone had, we will be running the trip again on 22nd to 24th August, 2014 to give even more people the opportunity to enjoy this great weekend. Full details can be obtained by emailing GRUG on gwsnowtrip@gmail.com



VENTURER REPORT

Thank you to all of the Units that attended our Region Venturer Social Camp last month. Despite the rain, the weekend offered a great opportunity to camp together as a Region and discuss growing the Venturer membership throughout the year ahead.

Our highest priority for 2014 is the recruitment of Scouts to Venturers and to help build membership numbers in both sections. All Scouts, and especially those over 13, should be regularly interacting with their local Venturer Units. This is the best way to encourage linking after completing the Scout section, as well as to provide new challenges to the older Scouts and offering new skills for Patrol Leaders. Building a strong relationship between both age groups will help to develop the program in each section and ensure that our membership continues to grow. Scouts aged over 13 that attend at least 3 Venturer activities can earn their Try Venturing badge. This is a great incentive for all eligible Scouts to achieve another Scout section badge that can be worn on the Uniform.

Scouts that will be over the age of 14 before the end of this year are eligible to attend the next Australian Venture in Adelaide next January. Participants must be registered and complete their Venturing Skills Award before Christmas. Scouts that complete their Adventurer Level Cord automatically qualify for the bushwalk component of their Venturing Skills Award and is a highly encouraged achievement.

There are lots of resources available on the Region website that will be of interest to all Scout Leaders and Venturer Scout Leaders in the Region. The recent edition of Look Wide magazine has details of some great events coming up, and our Dragon Skin newsletters have lots of interesting information on bushwalking that are suitable for all ages. If any leader has any questions or needs more information about anything listed, you are always welcome to get in contact.

Important Dates:

- **Mawson Scholarship in Leadership**
Applications close 27th March 2014
- **23rd World Scout Jamboree**
Applications close 31st March 2014
- **Dragon Skin 2014**
Forms and payments due before 11th April 2014
- **16th Australian Venture 2015**
Applications now close on 1st May 2014



Be Prepared... for new adventure!

**SCOUTS AUSTRALIA
MAWSON SCHOLARSHIP
IN LEADERSHIP**

The National Advanced Leadership Course for Venturer Scouts aged 15-17 years

Courses held in July and October Practical training in event management 24 youth members selected for each course

Visit scouts.com.au to download an application form

**2014 APPLICATIONS CLOSE
THURSDAY 27 MARCH**

MAWSON LEADERSHIP

Aaron Wardle RC Venturer Scouts
Email: venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au
Mobile: 0421 076 497



23RD WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE JAPAN 2015

"The best experience of your life!"

LAST DAYS TO APPLY!

wsj2015.scouts.com.au

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 31 MARCH 2014

23rd WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE
SCOUT MONDIAL
JAPAN
2015

和

MY FIRST CUBOREE

Julie Overton (Kim) JSL
1st Greystanes Scout Group

My first Cuboree experience was fantastic. It exceeded all my expectations. Our cubs at Holroyd were really well behaved and were working nicely as a team to help each other. To be honest I expected more friction between the kids as they became more tired, but they were great. Our campsite although on the small size was in a great location.

Our gateway worked out great with the Cubs making *survivor torches* that we put glow sticks in each night so they could find their way in and out of the campsite in the dark. It made it into the newsletter Edition 3 which we were proud of.

Only one issue caused some problems for a few of our girls each morning who didn't quite make it to the toilet in time. It was taking them too long to put proper shoes and socks on, find their hats and find a friend to take with them to the toilets!

I didn't really understand how the sub camps worked until I arrived, but was quickly welcomed by the team at Sub Camp 7 HQ. What a fantastic set up they had. They really set the scene for the camp. I loved that they were playing music over a loud speaker, that they had set up Christmas lights so us and the Cubs could find them and the toilet facilities at night, and also the support they gave us in camp. They made all our camp adults feel special and supported our needs just great. They were also really helpful when providing the food and ice to us cooks. I must say that having Ray (Luna) Shepherd as head chef really taught me a trick or two with catering for 50 people, he is a legend!

I underestimated how long it would take to pack up after the event! After 11 hours packing up on the Friday we still had heaps to do. Our leaders and my husband went back down on Saturday to finish and then pack away into our scout halls.

Cuboree was tiring but an amazing experience. Thanks for the time everyone put into organising this event.



REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM

The year is certainly back in full swing with lots happening on the activities front.

I am getting lots of A1 forms for all sorts of great activities; camps, hikes and even a sleep over on an old sailing ship. As a general rule I only need to see a copy of the A1 if your activity does require Part 3 to be filled out. If ever in doubt send one through anyway. It is always good practise.

Just a quick reminder that Part 3 of the A1 is only required for any activity which involves water (canoeing, sailing etc.), rock (abseiling, caving etc.), overnight stay (camps, hall sleepovers and awakathons etc.) and any activity which does have an element of risk (full day hike in mountains etc.)

As I have said before, look at the Part 3 of the A1 form as an insurance policy. Hopefully it is not needed ... but if it is, it becomes an important legal document. Don't look it as just another piece of paper to fill out. Use it a means of detailing your activity, so if something does go a bit pear shaped, you know you have everything covered.

It is interesting that if you look at the various forms required by the Police or National Parks when doing your more adventurous type activities, they ask very similar questions to what we have on the our A1. *The challenge is they still require "their" forms to be filled out. (But that's a battle for another day).*

Just another point to note. It is good when you do complete a more adventurous trip to let all know you have arrived back safely. *Then it's time to do some bragging!* Tell the story about your activity, a few photos, and put into The Bulletin. Great way to motivate other leaders and groups, and share ideas. I do believe there is a bit of a story elsewhere in this edition of a recent overnight hike run by 1st Kings Langley to Donkey Mountain. I had the pleasure of attending this hike, and to see the incredible country side we have at our doorstep, makes you quickly realise just how fortunate we really are – and then to be able to share that experience with our youth does make it all the more special! On more major activities don't forget the local papers. They are often looking for great community based activities to show off.

It also puts Scouting out into the community.



Exploring some of the incredible rock formations at Donkey Mountain

Photo Mark Fell

My silence over the last few months with **SIS10** has been deafening, and for good reason. There is much discussion going on at present with the implementation of SIS10, some helpful and some not quite so. My challenge has been to try and decipher the fact from the fiction. Something I can tell you - SIS10 level 1 in bushwalking will cover leaders for 98% of all hikes including green cord hikes, in all sections of Scouting under the award scheme. This is one reason why this is becoming part of the initial training for all new leaders. There are a number of weekend courses throughout the year, often run by our own Frank Barr. Details can be found on the **Region Website**. Go to activities, then calendar and follow on from there. Don't forget your activity log books. This is simply a personal record of your adventurous experiences whether bushwalking, sailing, rock-climbing etc. and is all part of the SIS10 requirements. Not to say it will also be a great read in years to come of the places you have been too, and the things you have done! Again go to the Region Website, click on Activities, then Resources and you will see an example of a simple activities log. Of course you can personalise it to suit yourself.



Rehearsals are now well and truly underway for **Gang Show** for 2014. I have been able to get a bit of a sneak preview of what is in store for this year and let me just say this - irrespective of whether you know anyone in the show or not; if you want a great night of good, clean family entertainment and dazzle, you simple must not miss it. Go to www.gangshow.asn.au for full details.

Don't forget our rescheduled **Water Fun Day** on Sunday 30th March at Lake Chipping Norton, details are all on the Region Website.

On a personal note, can I say thank you to those who sponsored me for Coast Trek 2014. As a team we raised over \$2,700.00 for the Fred Hollows Foundation. We completed the 100km trek from Palm Beach to Coogee in 23 hours 57 minutes, nonstop, which was about 4 hours faster than we anticipated.

Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities

Email: activities@greaterwestcouts.com.au

FROM THE SCOUT DEN

Hi everyone. Just a couple of items for your information, the Jamborette and Rally.

JAMBORETTE

Our Region Jamborette this year is on the weekend commencing Friday night 6th June and ending on Monday afternoon 9th June at 3:00pm. I say 3:00pm as this is the time we would expect everyone to complete their pack up and be ready to go. We are not required to pack up before the closing parade like we used to when parade used to be 2:30pm. The time was brought forward so that everyone can go back to their camp sites after closing parade and finish packing up. Then they could leave without waiting for the closing parade. The Jamborette theme is **"Pirates of the Greater West"** as selected by our own Scout Youth Council.

Location for the event will be at Bents Basin again, hopefully without the rain on Monday this time. Cost is also expected to be the same at \$45 for Scouts and \$35 for Venturers, Rovers, Leaders and parent helpers, with food costs added on top. We ask that you be careful with the food cost so that it does not become a financial difficulty for people. A \$5 discount applies for early bird applications that are received by the Region Office by the early bird date, which is **close of business 16th May**.

The dates again are:

- Registration system opens: 20th April
- Early Bird Closing date: Close of business 16th May
- Venturer final closing date: 16th May (sorry no early bird for the Venturers)
- Final closing date for all applications except Venturers: close of business 30th May
- Move into Bents Basin for start: 5:00pm 6th June
- Move out of Bents Basin: 3:00pm 9th June

Applications: This year we are going to trial a new way of applying or registering for the Jamborette by using the Scouts' Event Registration system. This system is very much the same as the Jamboree and Cuboree registration system some of us are already familiar with. This system for us will go live on Monday 20th April. To access the system go to the Patroltent site at <http://www.patroltent.com>. The new Event Registration system is listed under **Events**, though the link there is only a title as it is not yet live.

There will be no A1 this year as it is included in the event system. You will need to create a login the same as we have done for the Jamboree and Cuboree. Once in there, complete all the information that is required, then when ready - print out the paperwork, sign it, have the youth member also sign, then pass the paperwork to the Leaders with full payment. They will then, in turn, draw a Group cheque for the total registration and send it to the Region Office. **It is important that the paperwork and payment be received by the Region Office by the due dates to be eligible to attend the Jamborette and receive the \$5 discount.**

Withdrawals will incur an administration fee so long as a response is received by the opening day, Saturday 7th June. Fee details will be coming. Any absences without notification will lose the entire cost.

More information will be coming through via the District Leaders etc.

STATE RALLY

This year the date for the State Rally has changed and has been brought forward to the **11th - 13th July** which is the weekend at the end of the school holidays. This has been done to help country Scouts not lose out on their school times for traveling to and from the Rally. This is a trial to see how it goes.

This also means the new **closing date for the Rally will be the 27th June**. Again this will allow country regions to work out their list of attendees and arrange transportation to and from the Rally.

Robin Garrett (Batman)- RC Scouts

Email: scouts@greaterwestscouts.com.au

CANYON CAPERS

Ross Smith (Elmer) ASL 2nd Castle Hill Scouts / Rock Activities Team Canyon Guide

Wolgan View (Dry) and River Caves Canyon



22 Scouts and 12 Leaders and Scouts from all over the Region joined together on a cold and overcast Sunday at the beginning of March to get a taste of canyoning. Lots of rain during the week made the trip out along the Glow Worm Tunnel road a bit slippery. There were quite a lot of kangaroos along the track, especially one big male that stood around 5-6 foot high!! After donning our helmets and heading down to the lovely little campsite we assembled for our briefing and to spend a little time remembering "Mighty" Rick Jamieson.

Lachlan Hibbard (1st Hazelbrook) led us off along the trail through the moss covered pagodas and the increasingly dense rain forest into the depths of the aptly named Dry Canyon. Even after all the recent rain in the area, the floor of the canyon was only just moist. As a first canyon experience this is perfect, as the walking is easy and the walls close in gradually until you are surrounded by high moss covered walls up to 30m high on both sides. The quality of the canyon is really quite high and really made an impression on the scouts.



When asked what they thought of the canyon one young lady, Krystal Neely (1st St Marys) said: ***"Amazing.... this is so much better than sitting in front of my computer playing games"***. Wow!!!



Morning tea was had at the end of the tunnel whilst a few scouts and leaders went off to find the nearby geocache and get a fabulous view of the Wolgan Valley. Everyone got a second taste of the canyon as it needs to be reversed, and after a leisurely walk back we stopped for lunch at the campsite before making the journey to River Caves Canyon.

After finding the normal road in cut by high water, we navigated our way around to Natural Bridge through lots of deep puddles. The walk into the start of River Caves Canyon was a bit of a trudge as the track is very overgrown and very wet, which meant we arrived at the canyon entrance already somewhat sodden – little did we know how much more sodden we would become. The real fun started here as the canyon is deep and dark and quite constricted; it is also required creek walking and lots of scrambling.

The recent rain had also raised the water level a little so the normal knee high water was up to most people's waist in a number of the pools. There were lots of squeals and yells about cold water and getting really wet, but there also lots of smiling faces emerging from each section of the canyon.



It was also great watching many of the senior scouts waiting and assisting the younger ones through some of the trickier obstacles such as scrambles up mini waterfalls. The canyon is really quite lovely as it is comprised of a long series of caves and slots cut through the sandstone, resulting in some good quality and challenging sections. The exit involved a scramble up a steep and mossy gully and then a pleasant walk along the ridge back to the cars. River Caves Canyon certainly provided everyone with a "step up" in canyoning difficulty but all the scouts did a fantastic job, and appeared to have really enjoyed their day.



Many thanks to all the leaders and parents who volunteered their time and vehicles and helped to make the day a real success.

RADIO, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Less Science Activity

This year I will not seek to take bookings for the Science nights until we find another couple of Leaders to help us. We need two more Leaders for the science nights to be effective, and allow for the occasional absence of one of us.

Most Leaders would have no trouble understanding what we do. It helps if you like science or are/were a teacher. We would be happy to hear from you and all involvement and responsibilities are negotiable. We have plenty of working programs, ideas, and can generate enough work to keep you as busy as you want to be.

Groups may ask for advice, or an activity night this year, and it may be possible for us to do it, depending on the type of science night and our availability.

We would be happy to provide individual Scout/Cub challenge badge support for science / radio subjects.

We will continue to support Joey AND Cub Fun days, Jamborettes and JOTA.

Amateur Radio Field Day

We attend the Wyong AR field day every year in uniform to remind AR enthusiasts to support JOTA for the Scouts.

We invariably run into people we know, and strangers who were either Scouts in their youth or have tales of JOTAs past.

This year we saw amateurs from the Blue Mountains club, one of Karl's former work mates, and bods from where I work at the CSIRO. Alan Mason (Radar) was there (up from the south coast for a couple of days, visiting relatives).

At lunch time we sat at the only available table with an operator, who it turned out, was a former Scout Leader and Group Leader for his local Scout Troup!

The 'flea market' is always popular, where bargains can be had and rare equipment obtained. Karl was on the lookout for an SSB satellite Transceiver, which he found for a good price. I bought a refurbished, oscilloscope for 1/5 new price.

The Jay Car 'disposal of returned stuff' stall was popular again this year. The trick is to wait till they are near pack-up time, when prices drop to \$10, and hope that what you wanted is still available. Karl picked up a couple of 50Watt wind generators, which he hopes to get going for the GWS Jamborette in June.



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

PENDLE HILL SCOUT GROUP TURNS 60!

1st Pendle Hill Scout Group will celebrate their
60th Anniversary
on **Saturday 29th March 2014**

All current and former Joeys, Cubs Scouts,
Venturers, Queen's Scouts, Committee Members
and Parents of Pendle Hill Scout Group and
Tartoola District Scout Band

are kindly invited to attend a BBQ at the Group's
HQ, Civic Ave, Pendle Hill **from 12 noon.**

For further details or to RSVP please contact
John Lee on **0424 387 171** or
email: jonlee@yahoo.com

Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/
pendoscouts/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/pendoscouts/)



APPOINTMENTS LIST

13/2/2014 TO 11/3/2014

APPOINTMENTS

GABRIEL , Emma Lucy	Appt TL (C)	1st Grose Vale Cub Pack
PERCY , Sarah Louise	Appt TL (C)	2nd Baulkham Hills Cub Pack <i>Rumbriah</i>
KAHN , Steve Maurice	Appt TL (S)	1st Riverstone Scout Troop
PRIEST , Matthew	Appt TL (S)	1st Erskine Park Scout Troop
ANDERSON , Neal Robert	Appt TL (G)	2nd Northmead Scout Group
CROESE , Jordan Beau	Appt TL (J)	1st Dural Joey Mob
SMART , Thomas David	Appt TL (J)	1st Dural Joey Mob
DAVIS , Sharon Lee	Appt TL (S)	1st Kellyville Scout Troop
ABBOTT , James Morgan	Appt TL (C)	1st Grose Vale Cub Pack
NEELY , Malcolm Arthur	Appt TL (S)	1st St Marys Scout Troop

TRANSFERS

SLOAN , Ayla-Shannyn Maree	Fr Appt TL (C) To ACSL	1st/2nd Blacktown Cub Pack 1st Balcombe Heights Cub Pack
LOMAS , Kerri Leigh	Fr AL (G) To CSL	1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Group 1st/2nd Blacktown Cub Pack
CALAFATE , Anthony Cosme	Fr ACSL To CSL	1st Kellyville Cub Pack <i>Darzee</i> 1st Kellyville Cub Pack <i>Darzee</i>
CONNOR , Elena	Fr Appt TL (G) To AGL	1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Group 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Group
COWEN , Stuart William	Fr SL To RL (Act)	1st Balcombe Heights Scout Troop Greater Western Sydney Region
GIBIAN , Michael	Fr ASL To SL	1st Carlingford Scout Troop <i>Bartoo</i> 1st Carlingford Scout Troop <i>Bartoo</i>
GREEN , Benjamin Peter	Fr AVSL To AVSL	1st North Mt Druitt Venturer Unit 1st/2nd Blacktown Venturer Unit
HILTON , Scott Andrew	Fr CSL To ACSL	1st Kellyville Cub Pack <i>Darzee</i> 1st Kellyville Cub Pack <i>Darzee</i>
MASSIE , Gary Ian	Fr ASL To SL	1st Balcombe Heights Scout Troop 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Troop
WALLACE , Kelly Ann	Fr AVSL To AVSL	1st North Mt Druitt Venturer Unit 1st/2nd Blacktown Venturer Unit

RESIGNATIONS

CONE , Brett Andrew	Appt TL (S)	1st Toongabbie Scout Troop
DAVIS , Caroline Alicia	CSL	1st Murray Farm Cub Pack Possum
MOUNTFORD , Alison Judith	SL	1st Carlingford Scout Troop <i>Bartoo</i>

RESIGNATIONS

WATTS , Bronwyn Ann	AJSL	1st Oakville Joey Mob
WHITTAKER , Lisa Anne	AJSL	1st Kellyville Joey Mob
RICHARDS , Michael James	Fellowship Member	Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship
WARDELL , Jennifer Ruth	Fellowship Member	Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship
MAHONEY , Martin John	RL (Act)	Greater Western Sydney Region
VAN DEN BURG , Johan George	RL (Act)	Greater Western Sydney Region

TRAINEE LEADERS NOT PROCEEDING

CHILD , Stuart Andrew	Trainee Ldr (CS)	1st North Mt Druitt Cub Pack
EDWARDS , Jordan Christopher	Trainee Ldr (R)	1st North Mt Druitt Rover Crew
EDWARDS , Mair-Jane Anne	Trainee Ldr (JS)	1st North Mt Druitt Joey Mob
COOK , Gary Allan	Trainee Ldr (CS)	1st Castle Hill Cub Pack <i>Kookaburra</i>

CALLED TO HIGHER SERVICE

DUNN , Peter	Hon Commissioner (R)	Greater Western Sydney Region 18/02/2014
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CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

The cast of **Cumberland Gang Show 2014** has met for the first time and have started rehearsing our brand new show for 2014. The cast enjoyed a full day workshop that culminated in a 'sneak peak' for all the parents and our brand new and very excited Comet Cast (7-9 year olds) who start rehearsing later this month.

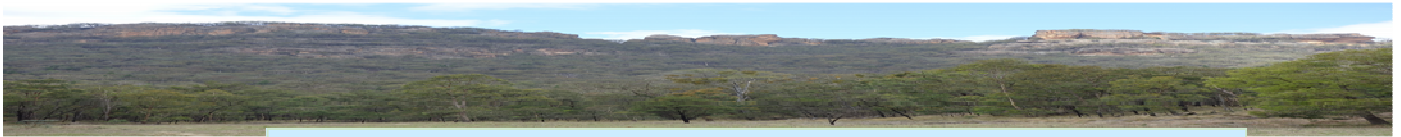
Tickets are on sale now! This year our tickets are all on sale through our website: tickets.gangshow.asn.au. Stay tuned for more information regarding special performances for your section. Our 2014 show is set to be the most memorable! Make sure you get along to see our biggest cast ever take you on a journey of imagination.

Group Visits - we have a bunch of excited and energetic Gang members ready to come visit and inspire your youth members and shear the fun of Gang Show. Why not invite us along one night so we can tell you all about Gang Show! Contact workshops@gangshow.asn.au

Backstage/Support Crew – Gang Show is for people of all ages. For every member of the cast (166) there are two people in backstage departments (*e.g. Catering, Wardrobe, Lighting, Audio, Set Construction, Video Makeup, Loft, Orchestra, Transport and Painting*) making it all happen.

Backstage and support teams are now being organised for our 2014 show and we would love you to come and join us! If you'd like to be involved in any of the technical or support teams contact Lorraine at personnel@gangshow.asn.au or call [0425 318 952](tel:0425318952).





Donkey Mountain Expedition - Ross Smith (Elmer) ASL, 2nd Castle Hill Scouts

Over the weekend of February 22 & 23, 4 Scouts, 2 Venturers, 3 courageous parents and 4 leaders embarked upon a fabulous hike to explore the mysteries of Donkey Mountain, a very distinct mesa in the Wolgan Valley. The group comprised youth and adult members from 1st Kings Langley, 1st/2nd Blacktown, 2nd Castle Hill, 1st Castle Hill and GWS Region (aka Dingo). After an early start on Saturday morning punctuated by a *fuel* stop at Lithgow Maccas, we arrived at the car park at the base of the mountain in the late morning.

The weather was near perfect; clear and not too warm. A quick *coroners*” photo was taken at the stile and off we headed, ably guided by Matt and Macca who had previously reccied the route. Although the route from the car-park to the top is only just over a kilometre as the crow flies, the ascent is over 450m on a trackless scree slope that was notoriously unstable followed by a sheer cliff line. With a full pack and 6 litres of water, the ascent was quite a challenge, particularly as navigating to the correct access point at the base of the cliff line is tough.



After a few false starts, a do-able route was forced through the cliff-line and we arrived at our first objective – the aptly named

Lunch Lookout. The view from the top is absolutely fabulous with a near 360 degree panorama of the mighty Wolgan Valley and overlooking the 6 star Emirates Resort. After a well-deserved lunch and rest we traversed the top of the mountain exploring the maze of pagodas, canyons and slots along the way to our camp spot – the Grand Hall.



The Grand Hall is an absolutely unique camp spot; a space approx. 20m long by 6m wide surrounded by canyon walls up to 30m high, the entrance to which is a metre wide slot that extends for around 50m. The slot was even inhabited by a guardian – a fabulous Leaf Tailed Gecko. Dinner, a fire and a rowdy game of 500 consumed the evening, after which we all enjoyed a warm and restful sleep. Remarkably we were protected by the howling winds that could be heard over head during the night.

We awoke to a calm and chilly morning and after a modest breakfast we ventured off to further explore the mountain top. First stop was the fabulous Donkey Canyon, another large *hall* surrounded by towering walls thickly covered in moss, rock orchids and a hanging grass. Macca led us in a Scouts own, reflecting on the power of books to influence our lives and the remarkable influence BP had on the world with his own contribution. We spent the next 2 hours further exploring the truly labyrinthine collection of canyons, caves, pagodas and slots that make up this remarkable mountain top. We explored the Green Room, the Fairy Cave, the Fig Tree, Gum Tree Room, Tchaikovsky's Ledge, the Lighthouse and only touched a small portion



of the mountain.



One of the highlights was the *Jennie Craig* a deep and narrow slot between 2 huge pagodas that required a sideways squirm and at times deep inhale to squeeze through for around 50m. Reluctantly, we made our way back to the Grand Hall for an early lunch then began our way back off the mountain. We took an alternate route back, directly descending the NW shoulder of the mountain, and although much quicker than the 5 hour haul up the mountain, it was no less challenging given the steep and unstable slope. After breaking out of the tree line onto the flat a short and enjoyable stroll close to the road led us back to the cars.

This is truly quite a unique, wild and beautiful area, which I certainly aim to return to, so as to further explore the magic of this magic mountain, literally on our doorstep. ***A wonderful weekend with a fabulous group of like-minded people – and a big thank you to Macca and Matt for organising the trip, and a big congratulations to the Kings Langley Scouts for toughing out such an adventure - with a smile (mostly).***

PROMISE CHALLENGE AWARDS

1ST GREYSTANES JOEY MOB

The NSW State Commissioner for Joey Scouts, Lyn Mann, presented three 1st Greystanes Joey Scouts with their Promise Challenge badges at a special ceremony held in Central Gardens, Merrylands.

Alannah Issa, Ethan Griffiths and Emma Overton received recognition for their service to the Holroyd community.

“The Promise Challenge badge is the highest award in this section of Scouts, only eighteen percent of Joeys state wide achieve this award,” said Lyn Mann.

According to JSL Julie Overton, the Joey Scouts each completed separate projects on their weekends including cleaning up local parks, participating in Planet Ark’s National Tree Day plantings, and writing to Bidjiwong Community Nursery to ask for seedlings that were then planted and watered regularly in a local park.



Left to right, back row: Colin Griffiths (AJSL), Lyn Mann (NSW State Commissioner Joey Scouts), Julie Overton (Joey Scout Leader).

Left to right, front row: Joey Scouts, Alannah Issa, Emma Overton and Ethan Griffiths.

THE SCOUT SHOP

85 Wentworth Street
Port Kembla NSW 2505

Phone: 4274 1193

Fax: 4274 6334

Email: sctshop@nsw.scouts.com.au

OPENING HOURS

Mon, Tue, Wed and Fri 9am - 4.30pm

Thursday: 10am - 4.30pm

Saturday: 9am - 12pm

TRAINING COURSES

Please be aware that all Course closing dates are one month out from all Courses.

NO APPLICATIONS will be accepted after that date.

ALL PRE-REQUISITES must be completed prior to applying not after application.



Margaret Crawford
Assistant Chief Commissioner
Adult Training and Development
Scouts Australia NSW

All Joey scouts are invited to attend the

2014 GWS Woonona

(Region Camp for Joey Scouts)

Scouting for Joeys



CASTLE MOUNTAIN, WEBBS CREEK (NR WISEMANS FERRY)

27-28th September 2014

Registrations Open February 2014

<http://www.gwsjoeys.org.au/woonona>

FUN DAY ON THE WATER

Sunday 30th March 2014

ANGLE PARK, LAKE CHIPPING NORTON

9.00am till 3.00pm

Only \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 for a family

Kids under 5 Free with paying parents

Grandparents are free with paying kids!

Don't forget a hat, and your Scout scarf, sunscreen, water bottle, towel swimmers and river shoes (*River Shoes must be worn while in water or boats*)

PFD's will be supplied to all participants while using watercraft.

There will be a food stall selling drinks and hot food.

There are limited BBQ facilities available.

You will need to register using the A1 Form available from www.greaterwestscouts.com.au with payment to the Region Office by **Tuesday 25th March 2014.**

Further information is on the A1 Form.

Unfortunately we are unable to accept registrations on the day.

PLEASE NOTE:

Following on from our cancelled **Water Fun Day** last December, we have rescheduled it for Sunday 30th March 2014 at Chipping Norton.

Obviously, for all those people who have made a payment previously, it is just a case of completing the new A1. If any one who has made a payment cannot attend, please let the Region Office know, for a full refund.

Certainly a great opportunity to run a Group family day with a picnic lunch.

Mark Fell



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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