



The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 419 - April 2014



CUB FUN DAY - "CARNIVALE"

Bundilla Scout Camp

SUNDAY 25TH MAY, 2014

10am to 3pm (gates open 9:15am)

\$5 per person

includes passport, badge and all activities



Flying Fox Climbing wall
Lucky door prizes Displays
Surprises Fun activity bases
Coffee cart available for adults



Badges and woggles for sale at bargain prices
Badge swapping (bring your doubles)!

All forms and money to Region Office
by **Tuesday 20th May 2014**

Copy of Y1 form required for all New Chums
NO REGISTRATIONS ON THE DAY.

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

It has been a very busy month with invitations to attend Australian Scout Medallion presentations for Rachel Lipscombe of 1st/2nd Blacktown and Daniel Park from 1st Westmead. I had the pleasure to attend the NSW Australian Scout Medallion Awards Ceremony at Hornsby RSL with host Rachel and Daniel and their families when they received their certificates. Well done to both these young people, their families, leaders and fellow Scouts.

I have attended a number of Annual Report Presentation Meetings and would remind groups that they must be finalised by 31 May. Make sure your District Commissioner knows the date of your meeting.

The Cub section held their leadership course at Bundilla with 75 cubs in attendance. I called in to see how they were progressing and was co-opted to assist with serving the morning tea. Congratulations to Anne Thompson and her team on providing a great day for the cubs and also to members of the Westmead Pinaroo Scout Fellowship who organised feeding the hungry hounds!

A number of our leaders attended Pennant Hills for Advanced Training for Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Leaders of Adults and I had the pleasure to call in and see the participants. Well done and I look forward to hearing that they are receiving their Wood Badge soon.

I also attended a rehearsal of Cumberland Gang Show and saw the new Comet Cast practicing their item for this year's show and recommend you get in early for your tickets for a great show in July. It is a totally new format!

The Region ARP will be held at Bundilla on Sunday 15th June 2014 at 2.30pm. Afternoon tea will be served at the conclusion of the meeting. Please RSVP to Region Office by Friday 23rd May.

David Stopps will be heading up a development team to assist groups who need to increase their numbers to be viable. Anyone interested in assisting, please contact David.

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

Neville Henderson

Region Commissioner

Email: rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au

be prepared...
for new adventure

Refunds for Water Fun Day

Anyone who is due a refund needs to make an e-mail request to us by the end of May 2014.

No refunds issued after that date.

Maggi and Kim - Region Office



Rachel Lipscombe, 1st/2nd Blacktown and Daniel Park, 1st Westmead with RC Neville Henderson OAM at the Australian Scout Medallion Award Presentation, Hornsby RSL on Sunday 16 March 2014.



GWSR - APPLIED FIRST AID COURSE

17th May 2014

2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Hall

Jasper Rd, Baulkham Hills

Pre-requisites: Nil

Start: 8:00am

Finish: 4:00pm or earlier

Down load A1 from Region calendar

Closing date 9/5/2014

Numbers limited



**ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH
GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION**



MR ALAN OVERTON AM
Region President

MR GEOFF MCGRATH
Region Chairman

AND

MR NEVILLE HENDERSON OAM
Region Commissioner

Invite you to be present at the

**67th GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION
ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION**

BUNDILLA SCOUT CAMP

6 Baden Powell Place
WINSTON HILLS

Sunday 15th June 2014 commencing at 2:30 pm

Please RSVP by Friday, 23th May 2014 to Region Office

6 Baden Powell Place, WINSTON HILLS NSW 2153

Phone: 9639 2488 Fax: 9686 2510 or

Email: gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au

Please cut off and return slip to Region Office

Name/s
.....
.....

Accepts the invitation to attend the Greater Western Sydney Region AGM

Declines with regret the invitation to attend the Greater Western Sydney Region AGM

JOEY SCOUT REPORT

It's been a great start to the year for the Joey Mobs. We've had some new leaders complete the Joey Basic Sectional Techniques and now some have completed the Advanced Sectional Techniques, this means our Joeys are in for some great programming.

It was a great honour to be invited to a combined sections meeting at 1st Erskine Park to award two Promise Challenges. On the night they invested 5 new Joey Scouts, 3 Cub Scouts and combined linking ceremonies. It's a credit to all those leaders to see the group doing so well.

Planning for the GWS Woonona is coming along well. We have picked up another sponsor, Outback Steakhouse Australia. The Joey Back packs are attracting a lot of interest from other Regions and will help support our event. An organising committee for the Woonona is being held on 3rd Thursday each month in the Rotary Hut @ 7:30pm.

Hopefully by now you will all have dates locked in for your district campfires. Please advertise them well in advance and prepare your camp fire programs.

The State Konara is going to be great with quite a few from GWS attending. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Camp Fires, Konara, Woonona, Mob Holidays - it all comes together with planning, planning and planning. Baden Powell often talked about being prepared, so that you are always ready for the unexpected. Mob meetings and all other activities are always so much easier when they have been planned well in advance. I've long been a supporter of getting your planning done early because I've seen in action and I know it makes things easier in the long run; as well as providing a better quality Scouting experience for the Joeys. If anyone needs help with doing a term program, just give me or any of our district leaders a call. we would love to be able to help out.

Brian Zarth (Maggie) - RC Joey Scouts
Email: joeys@greaterwestscouts.com.au







Investiture night at
1st Erskine Park

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>



JAST rebuild crashed
UFO at Pennant Hills



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

Benjamin Leary - 1st Erskine Park
Liam Spinks - 1st Erskine Park
Benjamin Verco - 1st Carlingford
Blake Alguerno - 1st Springwood

HOP - HOP - HOP

CUB SCOUT NOTES

Last weekend we ran the **Cub Scout Leadership Course** at Bundilla for 75 energetic and enthusiastic cubs! They were well behaved and gave some great responses during our youth forum. Congratulations to the CSLs - you should be very proud of your Cubs and the great Programs you are delivering to your Cubs.

My sincere thanks to my Seonee Team and the Leaders who came in to help us run the course; the team from Westmead Pinnaroo who did a brilliant job of keeping us well fed and our RC for visiting us and lending a hand!

Last month I announced the State Cub Pack Challenge and published the challenge details. It seems that some Leaders were not happy and wanted more specifics. Please contact me directly if you have any questions about the challenge - your DLCS only knows what was written in The Bulletin!

Cub Fun Day will be held at Bundilla on Sunday May 25. All the details are on the GWSR website. CSLs are to create their own A1 from those details and have all forms, cover sheet (on website) and money to Region Office by May 20. You will also need to supply a copy of your Y1 for each New Chum taking part in the day.

BYO food and drink - cold water will be available to top up drink bottles throughout the day. Please make sure you organise a meeting place, so that parents know exactly where to drop off and pick up their Cubs before and after the event.

On the day, only one Leader needs to come to the rego table to collect the passports and badges. There will be no registration on the day. One of the complaints from Cuboree was that there wasn't enough spare time to swap badges - so we are setting up a sales table and swap area. Nice badges on sale from just 50c each.

Another issue we always encounter on these days, is the long queues for the flying fox and climbing wall. This time we will organise a time table. Each Pack will be allocated their time as we receive your pack registration form and A1s at Region Office - so first in, best dressed! The timetable will be posted on the website after the May 20th closing date.

Please don't leave registrations to the last minute - I need to know how many badges to produce, passports to print and the base leaders need to know how many cubs will be coming through their bases. The registration form is available on the website - this cover sheet needs to be completed and lodged with your A1s and Y1s for your Cub Scouts and Leaders.

Youth Helpers Course May 10 - all details, except for the course number, are available on the website. Cost \$40 - includes workbook, pen, notes, morning tea,

lunch and afternoon tea. Closing date is May 2. I require a minimum of six youth members to run this course.

Palaver will be held at Bundilla on Saturday 9th August. Your Region Seonee Team is busy putting together a great Programme for you to enjoy and to gain some great programming ideas and resources. Please mark the date in your diaries, and show your support for the Region, by joining us for a day of good fun, food and friendship. We ask Group Leaders to encourage all of their CSLs and Youth Helpers to attend this special event. More details will be announced at a later date - please keep an eye on the website.

Dates for your Diary

10th May Youth Helpers Course
Closing date 2nd May

25th May Cub Fun Day - Carnivale 10am to 3pm

9th August Palaver 9am to 5pm

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

Anne Thompson (Wontolla) - RC Cub Scouts
Email: cubs@greaterwestscouts.com.au



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

Natasha Ozols - 1st/2nd Merrylands

Lucas Chicharro - 1st Sth Penrith

Rhys Astley - 1st/2nd Blacktown

Jack O'Brien - 1st/2nd Blacktown

Cienna Dent - 1st Greystanes

Sebastian Ritzrow - 1st Hawkesbury

1 - 2 - 3 - WOOF



CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

Cumberland Gang Show rehearsals are well under way – what a great show 2014 will be! Our brand new Comet Cast have had a great first few rehearsals – what a talented and excited bunch they are!

We are excited to bring you a new, uplifting and breathtaking show these July school holidays. Bring your family and your whole group!

Tickets are on sale NOW!

book online at www.tickets.gangshow.asn.au or contact the Riverside Theatre on 8839 3398

Have you got your 2 Free tickets yet? There's still time for you as a leader to register for your 2 free tickets to this year's show - get in fast! Head to our website now - www.gangshow.asn.au

Do your youth members know? In 2014 we are launching our very special Scout promotions*

Saturday July 5th 3pm – Joey/Cub Matinee Performance

Wednesday July 9th – Scout Performance

*Youth members who register and attend get a FREE SHOWBAG

Friday July 11th – Venturer/Rover DINNER AND SHOW #

#Dinner at City Extra prior to show

Head to www.gangshow.asn.au for more information and to download our section performance flyers.

Want to get involved?

Contact us to organise a Performing Arts Workshop/Group

Visit: workshops@gangshow.asn.au

Contact Lorraine Shaw to join one of our Backstage/Support teams:

personnel@gangshow.asn.au



CUB PACK CHALLENGE 2014

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

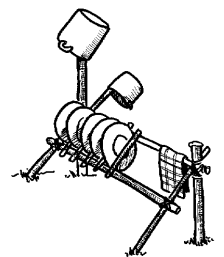
CRITERIA: Constructed by a natural Six. Must be useful. Made from natural materials.

JUDGING:

- Each Pack will judge their best entry.
- Each Region will choose their best entry. (GWSR entries will be judged 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 at Pennant Hills.
- 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!



ROVER REPORT

The last month or so has been busy. All of the Crews have held their AGMs, bringing with them new Crew Executive, and the RRC has also held its AGM, bring with it a new RRC Executive.

Big month! But now that's all done, everyone's looking ahead to jump straight back into getting out there and doing some Roving.

With Dragon Skin just around the corner, all of the Rover crews are knuckling down to make sure everything's ready for the big weekend. Planning activities, organising Voc 4, the lot. Luckily come the Easter long weekend, all that hard work will pay off.

St Georges Day and ANZAC Day are also fast approaching. Like every year there is sure to be a great Rover presence at both local ANZAC services as well as the one in the city. Keep an eye out, you might just find a sea of red near by.

Congratulations are in order for Johnathan Morey, of Kings Langley Rover Crew. Recently, Johnathan became the Chairman of the National Youth Council. This is a great privilege and honor. Over the next two years, Johnathan will be leading the NYC as they forge a path for the youth members of Scouts Australia.

We wish Johnathan the best of luck, and look forward to seeing the fruits of his labour.

Angus Boxall RRC Chairman

Email: chairman@gwsrovers.com.au

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 REPORT

This month we ran our first Region SIS10 level 1 bushwalking course at Bundilla. All new Scout and Venturer leaders will have to do this course and it is recommended that all qualified Scout and Venturer leaders do the course as well.

It is not compulsory for Joey Scout and Cub Scout leaders but it is an interesting elective they can choose to do which is very relevant to the outdoor activities in scouting. Frank Barr ran the course and had the 18 participants absolutely fascinated by the way he organised his pack. There was some adjustment to their necessary/not necessary lists afterwards!

Rovers are welcome to participate in these courses as part of their training, just note that it is level 1 and aimed at all ages.

March and April have seen the first basic and advanced courses run for all sections. I am eagerly awaiting the inservice forms to complete the training for quite a number of leaders. Don't leave it too long.

Trainee leaders please note that most of the inservice can be done while you are doing your e-learning and attending section nights. You do not have to wait for the residential weekend.

There is a youth helper course being organised for the 10th May at Bundilla. This is for Venturer aged youth who are helping out in the younger sections. Most of our youth helpers are Venturers but it is not compulsory. For those that are not youth members they must still be registered with the association.

Kathy Cuneo RC AT&D

Email: training@greaterwestscouts.com.au

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



REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM

When it comes to Activities I see my role as more of a **“Jack of all Trades, and Master of None!”** With such a skilled team of Activity Leaders, the above scenario works well. While I am quite at home paddling a canoe up a river, or abseiling down a cliff somewhere, every now and then, I find myself in a situation where the old stress levels do go up a bit...!



It was Bungonia Caves; abseiled down into a cave; that’s always fun! It was the following “squeeze” (*a tight spot, in cavers language*) along with foul air, (*and I am not talking about the Baked Beans for breakfast foul air*), that had me gasping for a breath. A match was all we needed to confirm there was very little oxygen there, and it was time to get out. Interestingly it affects each person in different ways. Once back into clear air I was fine, however a number of the other cavers, while not panting in the cave, complained of headaches during the afternoon. A good learning curve on when to continue and when to turn back. It was a great weekend however, and enjoyed by all.

What is becoming more and more popular is the **Mobile Climbing Wall**. Big thank you to Quentin Napier, who along with myself ran the wall at the recent Cherrybrook Movie under the Storm night. We ran the wall from 5.00pm through to about 8.00pm before the heavens opened up. Unfortunately it washed the movie out (...and no the movie wasn’t NOAH!)

The cost and booking process of Adventurous Activities with the Region has been a bit hit and miss in recent times, with a fair amount of misunderstanding on how the process works. Over the last few weeks, and with consultation with the Activities Team and Region Office, I am pleased to be able to provide you with the process of booking an activity with the team.

***It’s not a new process; it is basically what has always been!
Just needed to be better explained.***



1. First thing to do is go to the Region Website and pull up the Activities Calendar. It shows (usually for the next few months) planned courses/and or trips coming up. By clicking on the activity, it will bring up a link to the A1 forms and with details about the activity.
2. Complete the A1 form and send it through to the Region Office including the required fees. Forms must be in by the Wednesday week prior to the activity. While it is OK to contact the Activity Leader about the Activity itself, please **do not** send A1’s or monies to the Activity Leader. They must all go Region Office.
3. Region Office will monitor the application numbers and if necessary, will liaise with the Activity Leader, as to maximum numbers, if applicable.
4. The Office will send through to the Activity Leader a participants roll along with the A1 Forms. This should be done in ample time to allow the Activity Leader to ensure they can organize sufficient resources for the activity.
5. The Activity Leader is to have the A1 forms available on the activity. They have emergency contact details and also medical details of each participant.
6. **Remember every person who attends an activity must complete an A1 Form.** That is every person, leaders, parents, helpers and even RC Activities.

If you are part of a larger group and wish to do a dedicated activity at a particular time, please contact myself. We have often done this and it works very well.

I have now been able to finalise the costs of courses, trips and even hire of gear which is now current.

REGION RUN ACTIVITY	Day Trip/ Course	Weekend Trip	Weekend Course	Comments
Canoeing	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$40.00	Includes trailer for transport
Sailing	\$35.00	-	\$45.00	Includes trailer for transport
Abseiling	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$40.00	Excludes camping fees on weekend courses Weekend course includes prussic rope for participants to keep.
Caving	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$40.00	Excludes camping fees on weekend trips & courses Weekend course includes waist tape for participants to keep
Canyoning	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$40.00	Helmets & Harnesses
	\$5.00	-	-	Helmet Only Non Abseil.
First Aid	\$55.00	-	-	One day Course (Applied First Aid)
EQUIPMENT HIRE				
Canoes	\$25.00			Includes paddles & PFD's
Sailing Boats	\$35.00			Pick up from Blacktown Region Boating Centre
Harnesses	\$5.00			Pick up from the Bundilla Rock Centre
Helmets	\$5.00			Pick up from the Bundilla Rock Centre
Hardware	incl			As above

Please remember that damage/loss to any gear or equipment is the responsibility of the group involved. Please come back to me if you have any further questions on any of the above.

Remember I am here to help you!

Big thank you to all those who helped out on our rescheduled Water Fun Day at Chipping Norton. The weather was fine and warm, but pretty much no wind for sailing. A good fun day had by all. Great to see youth members start out in the morning paddling around in circles, and by the end of the day, they could actually paddle in a sort of straight line. And in a few years some of them will be doing overnight canoe trips ***the seeds have been planted!***

Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities

Email: activities@greaterwestcouts.com.au

MOBILE CLIMBING WALL

As most of you are aware the Scout Association own a couple of Mobile Climbing Walls. These are available for groups to use on various activities and community events. They are always very popular and a terrific way to promote Scouting in a local area.



The challenge for many of us is trying to arrange a booking, along with accredited operators, and then find a suitable vehicle, which is able to tow the wall to and from the activity itself.

To try and make things simpler for all, we have put together a new system for booking and organising the wall on activities.

➤ The wall can now be booked directly through the Region Office. Working with the RC Activities, Region Office will book the wall (ensuring availability) and also arrange for qualified personnel to run the wall. Total cost for the wall and personnel will be \$250.00 payable to Region. For a further \$70.00 Region can arrange for the transport of the wall both to and from the activity (Greater Western Sydney Region Area Only). This is great value with commercially run Climbing walls charging in excess of \$1,600.00 for an activity.

➤ You will still need to provide between 4-6 people to help fitting harnesses on participants.

➤ The question is often asked how much space do you need to run the wall. A firm and level circular area of 10m diameter circle is sufficient. Also need to ensure adequate vehicular access.

We are certainly hoping this will streamline proceedings, and make things easier for everyone. **Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities GWS Region**

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!

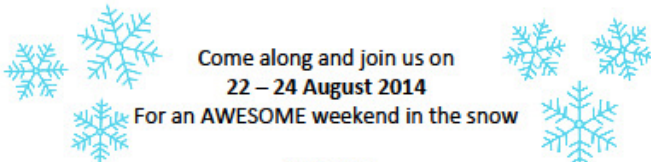
The GWSR website is a great resource for all things Scouting in our Region and we would like to expand on the resources we can offer.

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!**

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

APPOINTMENTS LIST

12/3/2014 - 7/4/2014



APPOINTMENTS

GRUNDY , Nicola Jane	Appt TL (S)	1st Springwood Scout Troop
DARMODY , Raelene Anne	Appt TL (V)	1st Riverstone Venturer Unit
PARKER , Jarrod William	Appt TL (S)	1st Emu Plains Scout Troop <i>Barindji</i>

TRANSFERS

MCLELLAN , Alexandra	Fr ACSL To ASL	2nd Castle Hill Cub Pack <i>Nackara</i> 2nd Castle Hill Scout Troop
RIGG , James Bryan	Fr ASL To AVSL	1st Carlingford Scout Troop <i>Bartoo</i> 1st Carlingford Venturer Unit
FISHER , Ellen Jane	Fr Appt TL (S) To ASL	1st Whalan Scout Troop 1st Whalan Scout Troop 24/03/2014
PARKER , Sandra Veronica	Fr Region Adviser To Hon Comm (R)	Greater Western Sydney Region Greater Western Sydney Region 24/03/2014
RIGBY , Robert John	Fr Appt TL (S) To ASL	1st South Penrith Scout Troop <i>Gundooi</i> 1st South Penrith Scout Troop <i>Gundooi</i> 24/03/2014
SIMPSON , Brett John Fr	Appt TL (S) To Appt TL (S)	1st Grose Vale Scout Troop 1st Glossodia Scout Troop 24/03/2014
WOOD , Robert Clifford	Fr JSL To SL	1st North Mt Druitt Joey Mob 1st North Mt Druitt Scout Troop 24/03/2014
HAYES , Elizabeth Ann	Fr DCSL To ACSL	Parramatta District 1st North Rocks Cub Pack <i>Barloo</i>
RUDD , Gary William	Fr RA (Rsp) To RA (Rsp)	1st North Mt Druitt Rover Crew 1st Westmead Rover Crew

RESIGNATIONS

MILLER , Colleen	CSL	1st St Marys Cub Pack 10/01/2014
CONN , Phillip Andrew	ACSL	1st Grose Vale Cub Pack
GARLAND , Brett Andrew	Appt TL (S)	1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Troop
MCGRATH , Christopher Paul	RA (Rsp)	1st Westmead Rover Crew
OZOLS , Helen Maree	JSL	1st Parramatta Joey Mob

TRAINEE LEADERS NOT PROCEEDING

GARDINER , Bruce Cameron	Trainee Ldr (V)	1st Kellyville Venturer Unit
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GWSR Abseil Proficiency Course March 2014 2nd Castle Hill



Today was a great day because we got to go ABSEILING! In my perspective, abseiling was fun. It was fun because it was a very diverse sport. It required two people, a HUGE cliff and some rope. The sport was interesting because it is like rock climbing except we were going down backwards. The most fun part was descending because that is where all the fun/action is. It's amazing how you get to overcome the fear of danger by descending a huge 25 m drop that could possibly hurt you, even though you have a lot of protection and safety equipment. Not only do you get to have fun but you also earn a proficiency badge for all the hard work; not to mention all of the other fun just simply sitting and talking with your friends. We all had so much fun abseiling that some of us competed on how many we completed. In conclusion, I would like to do this again in a higher heights even if I received my abseiling proficiency badge already" - **Brandon Leyba**

Scout Abseiling Trip 30th March 2014

By Lachlan Hibbard, 1st Hazelbrook Scout Troop

At the start of the day the Scouts helped bring all the gear down from the car to the cliff. Once we moved all the gear, we learned our knots and lashings and then we put our gear on (harness, helmet, carabiners). We had to learn how to properly put on the rope to the figure eight carabiner. Once we learned how to do that properly, we had to do a horizontal abseil. When we all had finished doing the horizontal abseil we were split into groups to do our first abseil, one group was doing the 5 metre and the other group was doing the 10 metre abseil.

The 5 metres abseil was not that much fun because it was the beginner level abseil. At the start we learnt all the techniques and how far you needed to lean back until you start abseiling down the cliff. Once we got down we had to belay the person coming down after us.

The 10 metres abseil was pretty fun. It had a sudden drop at the start that most of us weren't expecting but once we had leaned back, we were fine. We had to slowly go down, but once we got to the bottom we were fine. At the bottom we could belay the next person and help them where it was easy.

Once we had finished with the practice ones, we took a break and had some morning tea. We talked about how close we could be from the cliff (3 metres). We had to check all of our equipment again to make sure it was still tight. There were two cliffs one was 15 meters and the other one was about 25 metres down.

The 15 metres was fun and a bit scary. Once we were hooked on the rope we had to lean back properly or we could flip because there was a hole right at the start of the cliff. Some of us did flip, but everyone was okay! Once we got past the hole in the rock, the rest of the way down was easy. When we touched the bottom we had to yell "Safe" and then after we were unhooked we yelled out "Off rope" and took over the belaying position.

The 20-25 metre abseil, was extremely fun and very scary! After I went down about 10 metres I just let the belayer slowly let me down, because there was about a 5 metre ditch in the cliff face. Once I got to the bottom I took over the belaying position.

At the end of the day we took off all our abseil gear (harness, helmet and carabiner) and helped pack all the equipment into the bags. We then helped the leaders return all the equipment back up to the car. After we got back to the road we received our certificates.

It was a great day and I can't wait for the next one. It was a bit scary, but mostly fun!



CANYONING CAPERS 2

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

SERENDIPITY CANYON (MT WILSON)

1 Scout, 3 Venturers and 5 Leaders from GWS and SN braved the wilds of Mt Wilson to experience the magic of one of the tributary canyons of the Wollangambe River, Serendipity Canyon. With 5 waterfall abseils all with tricky starts and ending in water pools this was sure to be a fun day so long as the forecast thunderstorms stayed away.

We arrived at Cathedral Reserve bright and early to be confronted by a mass of tents spread out across the camping area, mostly from UNSW Sport and Rec but also some Venturers from Southern Districts. Other groups were already heading off to the canyons so after a quick briefing we headed down the easy trail, which still showed signs of the November bush-fires, to the first drop. We seemed to be first to the canyon so we geared up and descended the first waterfall without delay. It was very amusing to hear Makka, the first one down, yelling out **"I'm in the drink now!"** after he plunged into the deepish pool at the bottom.

In order to speed our traverse we split into 2 groups and were soon on our way. Both groups moved through the canyon very efficiently, only held up by a commercial group who dropped in from a side canyon. There were a few squeals and a couple of complaints about cold water, but they were vastly outweighed by big grins and lots of comments about the beauty of the canyon. It's only really the first immersion that is a bit of a shock! We encountered a couple of the local residents on the way through the canyon including a couple of medium sized yabbies and some small fish, all signs that the water is in good condition. Although the swims can get a bit cold they are not very long and because the day remained warm the journey was quite comfortable. All too soon we came to the junction with the Wollangambe River which was nice and warm relatively speaking.

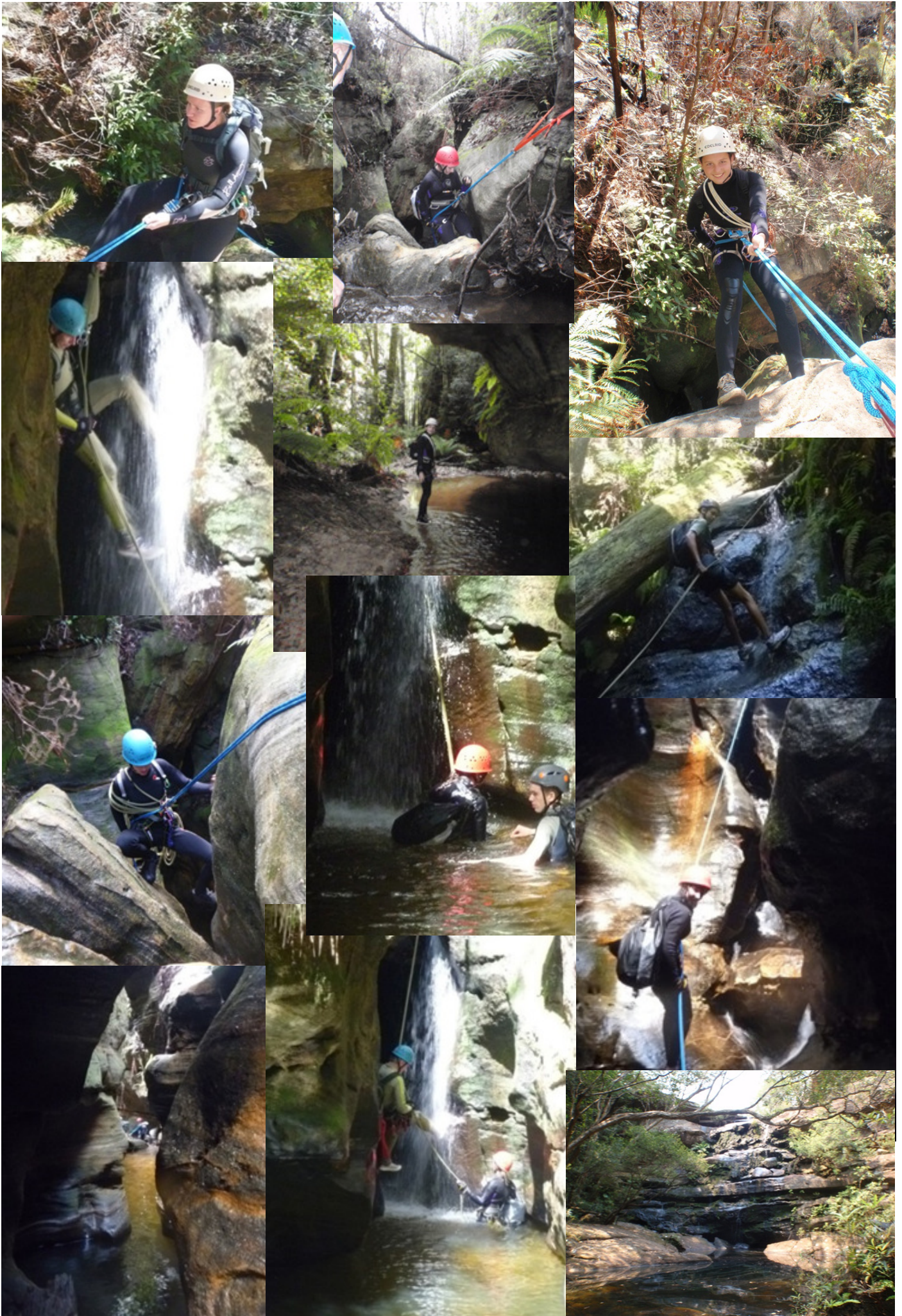
We swam up stream to the exit track and rested on the big rock platform and basked in the sun and cleaned sand from our shoes. I am sure the rest of the group were amused by *'yours truly'* suddenly leaping into the river and swimming downstream in an effort to retrieve an errant wetsuit booty. After drying off a little we made our way back up the steepish cliff line and then ridge. We were very fortunate that the thunderclouds were rolling in and shading us from the sun, which meant a cool walk out. Soon enough we were back on the fire trail and then back to the cars at around 4pm. We said our goodbyes and packed up and literally within minutes the heavens opened up with a torrential downpour. Happily we were all safely in our cars.

The following is a sample of the feedback from the group: *"I had so much fun, I cannot wait to go again! Everyone should join in!" "...the water is seeping through my wet suit and it's cold". Favourite part of the trip, "watching my sister slip as she was abseiling in a waterfall, I could not stop laughing; I ended up falling into the water trying to stop her from falling"* **Elysia Higgins 1st Ermington Scouts**

"It was majestic until the walk out, there were some really majestic parts, I'm not going to lie." Favourite part of the Trip, *"the swim out of one of the last abseils, it was amazing, the canyon was incredible."* **Cassie Higgins 1st Winston Hills Venturers**

It was a pleasure working with such an experienced team, and a big thank you to all the leaders who helped to make the day a real joy.





THE BULLETIN

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**Please send all articles and photos direct to the
Editor, Anne Thompson**

Email : anne.dlcs@gmail.com or

cubs@greaterwestscouts.com.au