



# The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 437 - November 2015



**A happy group of Hills South District Cub Scouts pleased with the flagpole they constructed at Cub Baanya.**

Photo : Gabie Thompson DLCS Hills Sth District

**GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION OFFICE**

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

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

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

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## FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER

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October was once again a busy month with places to go and people to see.

We had a most successful Adult Recognition Awards Presentation at Wentworthville Leagues Club and I am sure that anyone who attended would have had a really enjoyable time. Thanks to everyone who was involved in making this a memorable evening for the recipients and their guests.

On Saturday 24th October the Region conducted a Mental Health and Youth Suicide Elective at Bundilla which was attended by around 50 participants. Again thanks to the people who assisted in making this a success. Participants should have received their Certificate of Attendance in the mail by now.

I had the pleasure to attend the Queen's Scout Award Presentation to Meglyn Dent of 1st/2nd Blacktown Venturer Unit. Congratulations to Meglyn, her leaders, parents and other members of the Unit who helped her gain this prestigious award.

It is pleasing to be able to report that our numbers have grown since 1<sup>st</sup> April. Youth Members from 1840 to 1923 and Leaders from 366 to 474, an overall increase of 191 in our membership in 6 months. Well done to everyone.

At the Chief Commissioner's Conference the Region Commissioners were presented with the NSW three years Strategic Plan. This not only involves Region but also Groups and we are holding a meeting of Group Leaders, LICs, Rover Advisors and Region Team on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016 from 10.00am to 3.00pm (lunch supplied). This is a compulsory meeting so put it in your diary.

I am also pleased to announce that I had the honour of representing Scouts NSW in my role as Chairman of the Insurance Committee at an awards night in the city where we were presented with a Commendation Certificate for the risk assessment work which has been done in respect of the 2016 Australian Jamboree. This is a real honour as we were the only Nonprofit Organisation to make the final.

Our Region Treasurer, Paul Thompson, and myself have been busy preparing the 2016/2017 Region Budget and thankfully it appears that all is looking well for our financial future - if you keep supporting Bundilla and the activities put on by our activities teams.

Until next time...Carry on Scouting!

**Neville Henderson OAM**

**Region Commissioner**

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



### PLEASE NOTE

**The Region Office will be closed from  
Friday 18th December 2015 until  
Wednesday 27th January 2016**

**All articles for the **DECEMBER** issue of **THE BULLETIN** must be  
submitted to the Editor by **December 4, 2015** thank you.**

### FIRST AID COURSES FOR 2016

To be held at 2<sup>nd</sup> Baulkham Hills Scout Hall on  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August**

An E1 will be available on the GWS website closer to the date.

## TRAINING REPORT

### ATTENTION ALL SECTION LEADERS!

As you look at the **Appointments List** in The Bulletin - please note that recent appointees to section leader positions (JSL,CSL,SL,VSL) now have a 'P' after them. This denotes '**Provisional**' and will remain until they do their advanced training and obtain their Wood Badge. The section leader position is for experienced leaders who are expected to complete their Wood Badge within the next 12 months. Those assistant section leaders who have just breathed a sigh of relief that they do not have the same expectation, should just think about their section leader moving up or on to other duties; someone would have to step up!

My suggestion is that all leaders who have held their basic appointment for more than 6 months, start the advanced e-learning. The advanced basic core module is listed as 540 minutes. Do not panic - as you can stop at any time and it will come back to the same place when you return again.

I am aware that some leaders have been made provisional and they are only new (our new joey mobs for example). You will be given the time to gain experience before you have to do the advanced training.

***For those leaders who have procrastinated about doing advanced training for years, now is the time!***

***To all the leaders who have been logged on this year and have not yet finished their e-learning modules please make an effort to do them in the next few weeks!***

There is a **Cub Scout Course listed for 6th & 7th February 2016** for which the applications are going to have to be lodged in early January. This means, aim for the end of the school year rather than leave it until the last minute. I am endeavouring to get a Joey course to run at the same time.

There have been a lot of changes to our training system this year. It has now all been finalised and what it means for leaders is that all training/teaching/instructing etc. is done on the Scouting side - so you gain Scout qualifications. This will allow leaders to participate in Scouting activities.

Some of the qualifications are similar to what is offered at other training institutions so our Scout work will be part of a portfolio of evidence submitted to the Scouts Australia Institute of Training to be assessed for external qualifications. This is particularly relevant for the SIS qualifications.

I recently attended a magnificent ceremony where 5 leaders from **1st Erskine Park** were presented with their Wood Beads and Gilwell Scarves. Congratulations **Andrew McLean, Chris Cardona, Karen Cardona, Janice Edwards and Jason Edwards**. What a great Group effort.

Other **Wood Badge recipients** at this stage are **Cameron Foye from 1st Blaxland and Alice Gravina from 1st Kellyville**. Although the Wood Badges no longer relate to sections - it is pleasing that we have a Venturer and a Joey Scout leader receiving these accolades.

**Kathy Cuneo**

**Region Commissioner AT&D**

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

### CHRISTMAS TREE DRIVES

National Office has informed us that Bunnings would love to help Scouts run their Christmas Tree Drives this year. To continue their positive relationship with Scouts - **Bunnings** is happy for Scout Groups to set up Christmas tree stalls at some of their local stores.

***If anyone is interested, they are encouraged to contact their local Bunnings store to discuss the details.***



Once you have organised everything with your local Bunnings stall, please email Jessica: [Jessica.cooper@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:Jessica.cooper@nsw.scouts.com.au) with the details.

***This would be a great Scouts promotion!***

## CUB SCOUT REPORT

Despite the rain, another successful Cub Baanya was held at Bundilla last weekend, with 78 Cub Scouts, 28 Leaders and 16 Scouts participating. Thank you to my wonderful Region Seonee Team and all the other Leaders and Scouts who supported them - it really is a team effort. Special thanks to Jo Hillyard CSL 1st Blaxland for another great indoor campfire program - the cubs were still singing at breakfast the following morning!

Don't forget to apply for the **Commissioners Challenge Badge** before November 23. I am sure that many of you would have no trouble qualifying for this special award - after all it is based on all the essential elements for running a good pack Programme and fulfilling the role of a CSL. The **15 challenges** need to be completed in the 12 months prior to October to gain the award. Application forms are available through your Seonees and on the Region website.

By now, I am sure you are aware that the on-line registrations are open for **Super Saturday** (Visitor's Day/Future Scout Day) at the Australian Jamboree, Cataract Scout Park on **January 9, 2016**. If you wish to attend, you will need to register on the Jamboree website and pay the \$5 entry fee. Click on this link to visit the site: <https://applications.aj2016.com.au/Login.asp> All Future Scout registrations can purchase the special FSD souvenir pack for \$10 plus \$5 entry fee. Make sure you print out and keep your eTicket in a safe place - you will need to scan it to gain entry to the Jamboree. **Leaders should register as a group and print a group eTicket to ensure quick processing at Jamboree. A ticket may include cubs, leaders, parents and siblings. You can update a ticket and print it out again! Easier to scan one ticket rather than 20 or more!**



The best and easiest way to travel to the Jamboree will be on a region bus. You can of course travel by car, but parking is very limited and may be a very long way from the entrance! We are organising region buses to take you to and from the event for just \$20 pp. For more information or to reserve your seat, go to our Region EMS: <http://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event.php?eid=8>

**The proposed pick up points are (subject to change):**

1. Blacktown Showground, Richmond Road, **Blacktown**
2. Castle Hill Showground, Showground Road, **Castle Hill**
3. Greystanes High School, Beresford Road, **Greystanes**
4. Barton Park, Gladstone Street, **North Parramatta**
5. Jamison Park, Jamison Road, **South Penrith**

**Bus registrations close at 4:30pm on Friday 4th December, so please register and book your seats asap.**

Leaders planning on taking their packs to this event need to create their own E1. I do not need a copy of any E1s. I have noticed many parents registering individually, please consider registering your pack as a whole. If you have difficulty registering - please contact the RC PR & Communications: [communications@greaterwestscouts.com.au](mailto:communications@greaterwestscouts.com.au)

I am receiving quite a number of Grey Wolf applications presently, with the approaching end of year. Please remember that there is a two week turnaround for this award, so don't leave it until the week before break up!

Anne Thompson (Wontolla) - RC Cub Scouts

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

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

***Daniel Peterson - 1st Kellyville***

***Solomon Hammond - 1st Hazelbrook***

***Scott Drury - 1st Kellyville***

***Lachlan Edwards - 1st Oakville***

***Adam Davis - 1st Oakville***

***Angel Poi - 1st Carlingford***

***Luke Kahane - 1st Balcombe Heights***

**1- 2 - 3 - WOOF!**





Hills District  
camp site

Jo Hillyard, CSL  
1st Blaxland ran  
a great indoor  
campfire



Photos:  
Gabie Thompson



Melissa Harding  
DLCS Blue Mts &  
Penrith ran the  
Environment base

Presenting the  
Scouts with their  
Certificates of  
Service

PHOTOS  
Gabie Thompson  
DLCS Hills Sth



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## **VENTURER REPORT**

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Congratulations to all of the leaders who were recognised at last month's Good Service Award presentation. We are very fortunate in our Region to have such a large number of very dedicated volunteers and it was great to recognise that commitment.

**Waratah 2015** was held in the Gurnang and Vulcan State Forests earlier this month with a record attendance of 211 youth members and over 70 adult leaders assisting throughout the weekend. **Revenge of the Wraith** was our **10th anniversary of the Challenge of a Lifetime** and we were pleased to welcome 24 Scouts into the competition as well as teams from six other Regions. Details of the competition results have now been published on the Region website.

The updated 2016 calendar has been distributed to all Units. Details of our **social camp** at **Glenrock Scout Camp** on 19-21 February have also been circulated. All Units are invited to join us at the camp. Hiking into the campsite is also available.

Included in the **2016 calendar** are dates for the **2nd NT Venture**. This event will be hosted at the Woorabinda Scout Camp in Howard Springs just out of Darwin from 1-11 July 2016. Activities include a 2 day trip to Litchfield National Park to see some of Australia's most pristine waterfalls, raft building, the famous Adelaide River Jumping Crocs, Mindil Beach Markets and Didgeridoo making just to name a few. The NT Venture will also include a range of three day expeditions that include canoeing to the 9th gorge of Katherine Gorge, fishing for Barra and mud crabbing, mountain biking, hiking on the Southern Walks along Katherine Gorge, hiking the Table Top track in Litchfield National Park, four wheel driving through the NT bush, seeing the sites of Kakadu and Geocaching throughout the Darwin area. **Applications will open in January.**

As a reminder, applications for the **7th International Finnjamboree (Roihu 2016)** close at the end of this month. Join over 15,000 participants in the forests of Finland with saunas, swimming, campfires and overnight hiking - all popular features in the Jamboree program. Cost is \$1,250 plus flights. All Scouts and Venturers aged 12½-17 are invited to apply.

Lastly, applications for the **10th VCP German Jamboree in July 2017** are also now open for Venturer Scouts who will be aged 14-17. This is a traditional camp focused on long distance hiking, pioneering constructions and evening campfires with over 5,000 Scouts attending from Germany and surrounding nations. A very high level of fitness is essential to fully engage in the camp program. Initiative and social activities provide a great atmosphere for meeting many international friends. Cost is \$1,400 plus flights. **Applications close on 31 May 2016.**

**Aaron Wardle RC Venturer Scouts**

**Mobile: [0421 076 497](tel:0421076497)**

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



### Water Rockets

This month, Oakville Joey Scouts fired off some rockets on the oval next to their hall. This Joey looks happy, and why not; the Venturer is doing the hard work pumping, but HE gets to launch the rocket when the others count down 3, 2, 1, FIRE.

This launcher was a prototype designed to be cheap, so that many could be used at a past Jamboree. Plastic plumbing fittings are fun and easy to experiment with and are available in glued and screw together fittings.

The red tap is to release the pressure if the release mechanism jams. The saddle clamps holding the launcher to the wooden base allow the rocket to be pointed into the breeze or aimed for maximum horizontal range.



### I Fly

Here you see me trying out a new activity for Scouts! Actually my son had been offered a couple of discount 'flights' at the Penrith iFly Centre, that's him on the left waiting to go next.

We watched others for an hour, then flying suit and helmet on, a brief instruction on the correct stance and hand signals, then into the tornado.

I floundered around quiet a lot and forgot the signal for 'relax'. You only get a couple of one minute flights, so I didn't have time to pick up much or learn anything fancy, like floating head down!

This experience should definitely be a feature of the Air Activities Centre at Camden; sky diving without the risk!



### THE RADIO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TEAM

John Leahy

[john.scoutleahy@gmail.com](mailto:john.scoutleahy@gmail.com)

Home: 4572-1549

Karl Humphreys

[ets0@bigpond.com.au](mailto:ets0@bigpond.com.au)

Mobile: 0408 205 649



### LEARN HOW TO SAIL! EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

There is an opportunity available for Leaders, Rovers, Venturer Scouts and Cubs (older) to learn how to sail with a series of sailing workshops to be planned over the next few months, based on demand. Each workshop is designed for a maximum of 6 participants. Cost is only \$20.00

Current planned dates are 5-6 December, 12-13 December and with a longer course planned for 16-20 January 2016. Ideal for those who wish to learn a new skill, and are not attending the Jamboree.

**For further details please contact:**

**Keith Travers direct on 9632 3341 or email: [keith.travers@optusnet.com.au](mailto:keith.travers@optusnet.com.au)**



## Cumberland Gang Show – Power Up in 2016 On line Applications close Friday 20th November

Why not encourage your youth members to extend their horizons in the Gang.

There are opportunities for **all ages from Joeys to Rovers** and we welcome everyone to be involved. Gang Show is a training activity, which concentrates particularly on providing training in **theatrical arts** activities, while teaching self-confidence and teamwork.

Participation also satisfies elements of the badge system in every section. This is an inspiring badge activity that allows members to interact and make friends with people from different groups, areas and regions and be encouraged in their Scouting journey.

Our theme for the show in 2016 is **Power Up**, a modern exciting, up-beat opportunity for our cast to show what they can achieve when they step up and power ahead. There is a mix of well known modern rock and pop songs coupled with some great stories that cover sustainability, futuristic time travel, journeys around the world and technology. The big thing is it's fun! So power up your computer, log into our website and join the 150 other young people who make up the gang!

It's as easy as that to have a powerful 2016! Do it!

Being a member of the cast means huge fun, excitement and pride in what you achieve, as you perform to up to 6,000 people over 8 days in the July school holidays. This fun extends to all performance and backstage areas, so no matter what YOUR talent, join the Gang!!!

**AUDITIONS** are held on **Saturday 5th December 2015** between 9am and 5pm at Pennant Hills Scout Camp, Pomona St, Pennant Hills. **But don't panic, it's easy!**

**To complete your audition application, just log on to our website: [www.gangshow.asn.au](http://www.gangshow.asn.au)** and follow the 'Audition Now' link.

**For more information or for late applications** (which may be accepted) please contact Lorraine at [personnel@gangshow.asn.au](mailto:personnel@gangshow.asn.au) or call 0425 318 952

**We also have teams who would love to visit your group, run a self-expression activity and tell you all about the 2016 show. For more information and to make a booking go to [www.gangshow.asn.au](http://www.gangshow.asn.au)**

## VOLUNTEER POSITION VACANCIES

***Interested in Graphics or Web design?  
Enjoy flexibility and social interaction?  
Want to gain more experience in the field?***



A number of exciting opportunities have become available to join the Cumberland Gang Show (CGS) Web/Graphics Team. For those unfamiliar, CGS is a training medium in the performing arts for young Scouts and Guides. You do not need to be a member of Scouts or Guides to help in these roles.

### GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

We are looking for several creative and enthusiastic volunteers with a good understanding of designing for print and web mediums. Applicants must have working knowledge of Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign); good eye for colour, fonts and formatting and create designs to suit style, page layouts and print requirements.

### WEBMASTER

We are looking for an experienced and enthusiastic individual with a good understanding of designing and management of websites. Applicants must have working knowledge of content management system JOOMLA. This role involves managing website security, updating web content and managing our online photo shop.

### WEB/GRAPHICS TEAM LEADER

We are seeking a tech savvy, self-motivated individual with strong graphics and web design ability. Reporting to the Marketing Director, this role requires; creativity, understanding of colour and form, ability to meet deadlines, good communication skills and ability to manage a team of volunteers.

A wealth of other positions of varying types and time commitments are also available within our marketing teams such as publicity assistant, customer service, creative writing, photography, event coordination and administration.

***For further information or to express interest please contact: [karina@gangshow.asn.au](mailto:karina@gangshow.asn.au)***

**Karina Wardle  
Marketing Director  
Cumberland Gang Show**

### LEVEL 1 BUSHWALKING COURSE

**A bushwalking course for Venturer Scouts, Rovers and Leaders will be held at Bundilla Scout Camp on the 13th and 14th February, 2016**

**The cost of the course is \$65 payable to Scouts Australia.**

To apply for the course, please complete an L1 form (from the Scouts NSW website), attach payment and send to NSW State Office PO Box 125 LIDCOMBE NSW 1825 ***The closing date for applications is January 15, 2016***

The course is self-catered, camping overnight and BYO tent. Further details will be sent when your application is received. Course Leader Kathy Cuneo: [training@greaterwestscouts.com.au](mailto:training@greaterwestscouts.com.au)

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## REGION ACTIVITIES REPORT

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With summer just around the corner, the Region canoes have all been out getting wet!

Spent a great weekend with the **Region Canoeing Team**, with a Canoeing Skills Workshop being run by Tracey Hansford. Saturday saw us at Parramatta Dam learning some basic paddling skills, followed by self-rescues and 'T' rescues. Even the Canoeing Guides (instructors) had to get wet with 'T' Rescues, as we need to show regular currency of experience. **All part of maintaining SIS quals!** With all these newly learnt skills, we then headed down to Parramatta River on the Sunday to do a bit of a canoe trip. Always a little more challenging, with a bit of wind, tidal flow and those pesky Rivercats, but we all had a great time.



**Learning the importance of  
'T' Rescues in the placid waters of  
Lake Parramatta**

*Photo: Mark Fell*

Tristan Flores, our Region Bushwalking Guru took a number of youth members on an overnight hike on the Grand Pacific Coast Walk, near Wollongong, taking in the spectacular Sea Cliff Bridge. Certainly enjoyed by all. As much as we have some spectacular walks in the Blue Mountains, it is great to see Scouts out and about hiking in other areas.



**Our intrepid hikers strike a pose on the  
Grand Pacific Coast Walk.**

*Photo: Tristan Flores*

With adventurous activities, we often hear about the need to have **Risk Assessments**, and to ensure people running the activities are both qualified and competent. As most of you are aware I have run the climbing wall on many occasions, and every now and then one of the 'climbing wall instructors' will have to scale the wall to get someone down; either someone has hooked themselves up on one of the climbing holds, or they have had a bit of a panic attack at the top and need assistance to get down.

This month I had a situation where a young participant's helmet got caught on the wall causing a choking incident. While potentially this could have been a very serious situation, the fact is there were trained operators present, all geared up "just in case!" We were able to act very quickly, resulting in the young girl being brought down safely and while shaken, was quite OK. It certainly reinforced to myself the importance of proper training, and also being competent knowing that when a situation does arise, you can confidently act, to quickly alleviate a situation. As a result of this incident, we are revisiting our Risk Assessment for the wall to see if changes are required.

I was made aware that a GPS Unit owned by Karl Humphries (Buzz), was recently lost on a Scout Hike up in the Berowra area. I received an email about two weeks later from **1st Balmain Scouts** to say they had found a GPS unit in that same area, which turned out to be the lost unit! It is so good to see honesty and that helping each other out, is still a strong virtue within Scouting.....just a feel good story to finish off with!

**Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities**

**Stage Manager CGS**

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

## APPOINTMENTS LIST

### 26/10/2015 - 16/11/2015

#### APPOINTMENTS

**QUAN, Dianne** LIC 2nd Castle Hill Scout Group

#### TRANSFERS

**FORNARI, Richard** From TL (S) 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Troop  
To SL 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Troop

**KRUIJER, Matthew** From TL (JS) 1st Hawkesbury Joey Scout Mob  
To JSL 1st Hawkesbury Joey Scout Mob

**MACARTHUR, Anthony** From AJSL 1st North Rocks Joey Scout Mob  
To SL-P 1st North Rocks Scout Troop

**NELSON, Brian** From SL 1st North Rocks Scout Troop  
To AVSL 1st North Rocks Venturer Unit

**MASSIE, Lauren** From AJSL 1st Balcombe Heights Joey Scout Mob  
To JSL-P 1st Balcombe Heights Joey Scout Mob

**SYMONS, Karissa** From AJSL 1st Dural Joey Scout Mob  
To JSL-P 1st Dural Joey Scout Mob

**SMART, Thomas** From JSL 1st Dural Joey Scout Mob  
To AJSL 1st Dural Joey Scout Mob

**STOPPS, Tracey** From SL 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Troop  
To DSL Hills Sth District

**MUNRO, Yvette** From TL (JS) 1st Hazelbrook Joey Scout Mob  
To AJSL 1st Hazelbrook Joey Scout Mob

**CHAN, Marco** From TL (JS) 1st Balcombe Heights Joey Scout Mob  
To AJSL 1st Balcombe Heights Joey Scout Mob

**MERCIECA, Joshua** From TL (JS) 1st Blaxland Joey Scout Mob *Python*  
To AJSL 1st Blaxland Joey Scout Mob *Python*

**MERCIECA, Rose** From TL (JS) 1st Blaxland Joey Scout Mob *Python*  
To AJSL 1st Blaxland Joey Scout Mob *Python*

**WILSON, Laurence** From ACSL 1st North Rocks Cub Scout Pack  
To ASL 1st North Rocks Scout Troop

#### RESIGNATIONS

**FREEMAN, Leticia** AJSL 1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Joey Mob

**PEARSE, Lawrence** Crew Leader (Appt) Hawkesbury River Rover Crew

**WHIDDON, Andrew** LIC 2nd Castle Hill Scout Group

## **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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Editor, Anne Thompson**

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