

# The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 449 - December 2016



Wishing you all the joys of the  
Festive Season and a  
Happy and Healthy New Year

**GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION OFFICE**

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

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

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

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

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## FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER

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Where has 2016 gone?

It seems like only yesterday that we were looking forward to the Jamboree, now we are looking forward to the Cuboree. I have been invited to attend the opening ceremony and I am really looking forward to being there and seeing many of you.

In the past month I have attended an Australian Scout Medallion Presentation at Kellyville for Ethan Battam and recently received an invitation to attend another presentation for Abigail Ewings from 1<sup>st</sup> Parramatta Scout Troop. Well done to these two young people, their leaders and parents on achieving this award.

I would remind everyone that it is the time of the year for nominations for the Adult Recognition Awards and recently I sent details of eligible people and details of how to nominate so please make sure that the nominations are sent to my email as the office closes on 16th December 2016 and does not reopen until 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017. This year the nominations have to be in at State Office earlier than in previous years and we have to close nominations on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 3.30pm.

Cumberland Gang Show held their auditions on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and I had the privilege to see the talented people we have in our Region. Keep your eyes open for details of when tickets will be available

2016 has been a very taxing year on many Leaders and I thank you for sticking around and keeping Scouting going in Greater Western Sydney. Keep up the great work you are doing and I look forward to working with you next year.

From my family to yours, I wish you all a Merry Christmas  
and a safe and Happy New Year.



Until we meet again in 2017.....carry on Scouting

**Neville Henderson OAM**  
Region Commissioner

### **Please Note.....**

The Region Office for GWSR and TGW  
will be closed from



**Monday 19th December 2016 until  
Friday 27th January 2017 inclusively.**

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year

***Kim Harris and Wendy Dimmock***

The Scouts Australia NSW State Office will be closed from Friday  
23rd December 2016 until Monday 9th January 2017.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season.



**Congratulations to Chloe Harris who received her ASM and Adventurer Cord at 1<sup>st</sup> Hawkesbury hall on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November.**



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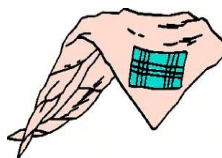
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*Congratulations and best wishes to*

**Jeffrey Lehrer VSL  
1st Dural**

*who has recently earned his  
Venturer Scout Wood Badge*



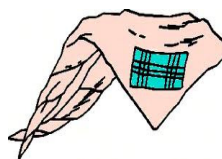
*Bravo - Well done*



*Congratulations and best wishes to*

**Melissa McAulay CSL  
1st Rydalmere**

*who has recently earned her  
Cub Scout Wood Badge*



*Bravo - Well done*

**THE SCOUT SHOP**

85 - 87 Wentworth Street  
Port Kembla NSW 2505

**Phone:** 4274 1193 **Fax:** 4274 6334

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

**OPENING HOURS**

Monday to Friday: 9am - 4.30pm

## CUB SCOUT REPORT

### CUBOREE

Just 18 days to go to the commencement of Cuboree! Applications are **NOW CLOSED**. Please finalise your on-line applications, make the payment and post your form directly to me.

For all information on Cuboree visit <http://www.nswcuboree.com.au/> regularly - especially for transport updates.

Thank you to all the **Scouts and Venturers** who have applied to assist with Cuboree. Hopefully you have been receiving emails from Ian Petty, your Sub Camp Chief - if not, please let me know. Unfortunately I can't utilise you all on the GWS activity base - but your assistance will be greatly appreciated with many of the other bases and activities on site and I am sure you will make GWS proud. You will all be advised shortly about your allocations. Please speak to your Group's CSL or the District Pack Coordinator to arrange the transport of your camping gear to Cataract - tents and camp chairs etc will not be permitted on the coach. Make sure everything is clearly labelled with your name and Scout Group - it will be stored on Site 8 for you to collect.

Thank you to my Region Seonee Team, Pack Coordinators, Leaders and Coach Captains who have done a mighty job of preparing the Cubs and equipment for Cuboree.  
I look forward to seeing you all at Cataract.



### ***Congratulations to the following Cub Scout Leaders who have received their Commissioner's Challenge Award:***

Jodi Merryfull - 1st Oakville

Phyllis McAlpine, John Aquilina - 1st Hawkesbury

Gabie Thompson - Hills Sth District

Melissa McAulay - 1st Rydalmere



Congratulations to Tricia Shaw, State Commissioner Cub Scouts on her amazing 50 Years of dedicated service to Scouting. We, in GWS, owe her a great deal, for the many events and courses she established and which the Seonee Team continue to run. **1-2-3 Woof Tricia!**

Thank you to all the CSLs who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to provide good Scouting for their Cub Scouts and thank you for supporting your Seonee and District and Region events. It is certainly a big task with often very little appreciation shown, and yet you continue to do it; just gaining satisfaction from the smiles on your Cub's faces and watching their progress and achievements. **December 5th was International Volunteers Day** - we recognise the enormous contribution all our Leaders make to the movement - where would Scouting be without its volunteers? Imagine if they had to pay us!

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

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

*Merry Christmas*



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

Holly Merryfull - 1st Oakville  
Hannah Watkins - 1st Kellyville  
TJ O'Hara - 1st Ermington  
Quinn Stephens - 1st Carlingford  
Vanessa Ozols - 1st/2nd Merrylands  
Ogadi Anugoh - 1st/2nd Merrylands  
Lochlan Muscat - 1st/2nd Merrylands



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

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## FROM THE DEN OF THE REGION COMMISSIONER (SCOUTS)

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Hi everyone. As we draw close to the end of the year I would like to wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas with your families and look forward to a productive 2017.

### New Regional Commissioner (Scouts)

As you are all now probably aware - I am standing aside as Region Commissioner for the Scout section in our Region. I have been doing the job for a few years and feel it is probably a good time to let someone, perhaps younger than me, to take on the role with fresh ideas and vision. I will take on the task as an advisor or assistant to the new Commissioner until he/she feels comfortable in the role. We request that anyone interested in the role please send an email or snail mail directly to Neville Henderson, but be quick as the closing date for this is the middle of December. We encourage any Rovers considering the role to make application as well. I am happy to provide a list of tasks that the role should be doing if you want it.

### Jamborette

We had a successful Jamborette in October even though our numbers were lower but this was expected. We appreciate all those that helped and participated in any way. Next year we are looking to return to Cataract and join in with South Metropolitan Region's **Gathering** to take advantage of extra activities, even on site activities.

### State Rally

We had another successful State Rally during the year as well with a good number of Scouts from our Region attending. Interestingly enough, a patrol of Girl Guides took out third place in the State. We should have scouts from every Troop going to State Rally as there are so many opportunities for them to do things towards their awards. If we do not encourage them to go, then we are denying them the opportunity to complete things in the Award Scheme. Rally focuses a lot now on making sure the activities we provide will complete some task in the Award Scheme for the Scouts. That being said - we as leaders need to be involved to run these activities for the Scouts, so we ask you to please make yourself available.

### Australian Scout Medallion

We currently have about nine ASM Leadership Activities either underway or almost finished. We encourage leaders to actively help their Scouts to aim to achieve this award as it is very worthwhile. More information is available on Patroltent, or contact myself directly. Col and I are both happy to come and talk about it if you want.

### Troop Councils

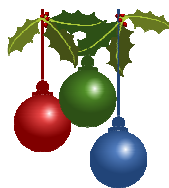
For the new year we need you to heavily promote and teach Scouts the Patrol System and the value of Patrol and Troop Councils. These Councils are core to Scouts and need to be running in some form or other no matter how many Scouts we have. We have some training material which we will be very happy to come and share with you and/or your Troops to get this under way. The Scouts need to be taking responsibility and leading these councils but they need our guidance as leaders.

Please take care and be safe.

Yours in Scouting

**Robin Garrett (Batman) RCS**

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



### JOEY SCOUT BADGE PLACEMENT

Over the years there has been an issue with trying to fit all the Joey Scout badges on one sleeve, while reserving the other sleeve for the Promise Challenge that is usually awarded just before they go up to Cubs.

The National Joey Council and the National Operations Committee has just approved a new badge placement for Joey Scouts that brings the Challenge Badges across to the left Sleeve.

This new badge placement is a must for all new Joey Scouts invested from this point forward. (I'm happy to wait until the beginning of Term 1 2017 if it suits better). All existing Joeys may stay with the previous placement. We are not going to force parents to move badges. Just note that the four Challenge badges must be together.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me

**Brian Zarth RCJS** - [joeys@greaterwestscouts.com.au](mailto:joeys@greaterwestscouts.com.au)



## VENTURER REPORT

I would like to congratulate **Ryan Barton from 1st Castle Hill** and **Rosie Rodgers from 1st Oakville** on recently completing their **Queen's Scout Awards**.

A hugely successful **Waratah** was held at Glenfield Scout Camp last month! **The Hunger Games** achieved our highest ever attendance, including the largest ever number of Venturers as well as a record number of Scouts. This is a great result! I would especially like to thank all of our dedicated Adult Leaders, Fellowship Members and Rovers who volunteered their weekend to ensure this event ran smoothly. The hot weather made for a challenging weekend, and without the support and enthusiasm from everyone that helped deliver the program, this event would never be possible.

Well done to all of the Units for participating in the program. A special congratulations to the **Rainbow Sporks** from **1st Dural** on winning this year's event after scoring well in all 12 bases!

Believe it or not, there are still lots of other activities fast approaching over the coming months. To those attending the **Everything is Possible Jamboree in Thailand** this month, I hope that you are able to enjoy an amazing experience meeting with other Scouts from across Australia and throughout the Asia-Pacific Region. To our Venturers and Leaders attending the **Cuboree** in January, thank you for giving your time to help the Cub Scouts enjoy their own major event. I know that you will have a lot of fun yourselves and I look forward to visiting during the activity. Units should now be planning for our **Region Rafting Weekend** on the Nepean River in February. The E1 has been distributed to all Units making summer holidays an excellent time to practice your raft building skills!

I am so proud to be a part of this Region knowing that every Unit is leading such an active program. Congratulations to everyone on another busy year gone and looking forward to another exciting 12 months ahead.  
**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

Aaron Wardle RC Venturer Scouts

Mobile: **0421 076 497**

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



Waratah 2016

**GWS REGION BUSHWALKING TEAM—TRISTAN FLORES**



Scouts, Venturers and Adult members can practice their bushwalking skills, develop confidence, meet people and see the national parks around Sydney.

**Further details are available at:**

<http://www.greaterwestscouts.com.au/activities/bushwalking>

<https://web.facebook.com/gwsrbushwalking/>



**Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the year.**

**We hope you have a safe and peaceful Christmas holiday.**

We invite you to join us for our meeting on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February to be held at Bundilla.

We are looking at inviting a guest speaker later in July.



Activity	Dates	National Park	Description	Grade
Jenolan River	Jan 15 -20	Kanangra Boyd	Jenolan Caves to Katoomba	H
Smugglers of Broken Bay	Mar 11 & 12	Brisbane Water	Wobby Beach to Woy Woy	EL/M
Six Foot Track	Apr 8, 9 & 10	Blue Mountains	Katoomba to Jenolan Caves	M
Woronora River	May 27 & 28	Heathcote	Waterfall to Heathcote	EL
Kariong Hieroglyphs	Jul 1 & 2	Brisbane Water	Point Clare to Woy Woy	EL
Ancient Forests	Aug 26 & 27	Illawarra Escarpment	Stanwell Park to Austinmer	M
Wollangambe Crater	Sep 23 & 24	Blue Mountains	Bell to Wollangambe Crater	EL/M
Gooches Crater	Oct 28 & 29	Blue Mountains	Bell to Gooches Crater	EL/M

***Some photos from our recent Christmas Hike on the South Loop of the Coast Track***

## REGION ACTIVITIES REPORT

It is hard to believe we are just about to wind up what we called “*The Year of 2016*”



It has certainly been a big year on the activities front, and it's certainly not stopping anytime soon; with all that is currently going on around the traps - whether its bushwalking, canyoning, canoeing or abseiling - it's all happening!

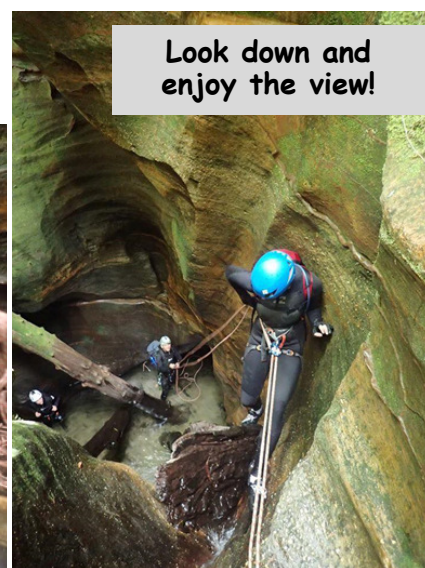
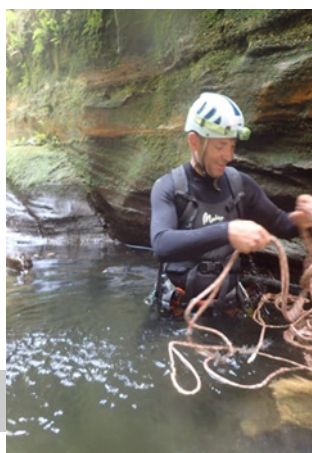
Stuart Cowen has been out and about jumping off cliffs with an abseiling workshop up at Yellow Rock and Bowen Mountain. Always popular with both youth and leaders alike.

The climbing wall was in action again. This time at the Penrith Real Festival, on the river's edge at Tench Reserve in Jamisontown. Organised by Steve Wallace, this was a big day and another great opportunity to promote Scouting into the local community.

Photo Stuart Cowen 

Ross Smith and his fellow Yabbies have been up to their normal adventure tricks in some of the most spectacular canyons in the Blue Mountains. Not for the faint hearted, this is where you dress up like a seal, and then walk/crawl/ swim/ abseil through freezing cold water. Might sound extreme, but the scenery and rock formations are absolutely amazing.

Good chance to wash those ropes.



Tristan Flores has also been very busy with a number of recent bushwalks. One of his favourite hikes was an overnighter out to North Era on the coast in the Royal National Park. Great weather, enthusiastic scouts and wonderful coastal views. It does not get much better than this! Due to the great success and popularity of the Region Hikes, Tristan will be moving to online registrations from January 2017 for all Region hikes. A standard E1 form will

accompany the online system. Hoping to also increase the frequency of hikes to monthly.

A number of leaders, including yours truly, spent an enjoyable morning out at Windsor on the river re-certifying our canoeing and kayaking skills. I am sure a few of the locals did wonder why we kept falling out of our canoes, only to be then rescued. Probably did look a bit comical, but it does have it serious side; to ensure we remain competent in our skill levels.

In closing for the year I would like to pass on my thanks to the whole GWS Activities Team, who do an amazing job in allowing our youth (and leaders alike) to step out of their comfort zone and experience something they thought they could never do. With no rest for the wicked, a good number of my team, including myself, are off to the Cuboree in the New Year to play, supervise the Fox, climbing walls and caving activities.

Wishing a wonderful Christmas to you all and an exciting and adventurous 2017. Maybe 2017 is the year you just might try that abseil; crawl through that cave; even swim through that canyon!

Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities

Stage Manager CGS

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



## Requirements for ARA Awards.

1. **For Special Service and Meritorious Service Award** - must have completed WHS, Childsafe and E-bullying modules. Require first page of their nomination form plus a citation of no more than 1500 characters
2. **For Silver Wattle and above** - must hold a Wood Badge, need a full nomination form completed and must have completed WHS, Childsafe and E-bullying modules.

Further information and forms available on the GWSR website.  
As the office is closed, please forward all documents to Neville Henderson RC.  
**Final nominations on 27/01/2017 - No late nominations will be accepted.**



**The Coleman Backyard Campout** is on again and **YOU** are invited to join in!

It's easy to get involved!

Pitch your tent in your backyard and you'll be part of the event.

Over the last few years more than 4,000 Scouts and their families joined in camping out in their backyards or Scout Halls as part of the Coleman National Backyard Camp Out.

After such a great response, we are calling for Scouts across NSW to register and take part in the fun all over again this year!

This is a great opportunity to have fun camping with friends and family in the comfort of your own backyard or Scout Hall, with the chance to pitch tents, play games and experience the great outdoors.

**To register please fill in the form on Scouts NSW website**

## For your 2017 diary....

**The dates for next year's First Aid courses to be held at 2nd Baulkham Hills hall are as follows**



**4<sup>th</sup> March** <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/22>

**6<sup>th</sup> May** <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/23>

**5<sup>th</sup> August** <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/24>

**Remote First Aid if we get the numbers:**

**13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> October** <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/25>

## SCOUT & VENTURER BUSHWALKING HELPERS

We would love to hear from Scouts and Venturers who enjoy bushwalking and would be able to spare around four weekends during 2017.

The Region Activities Team operates region bushwalks monthly from March to October.

Your role would be part time, so you would be able to choose your weekends.

As a helper you would support one or two patrols and model basic skills under the direct and/or remote supervision of the bushwalking guides on duty. If possible two helpers will be placed together to promote a buddy system.

There will be opportunities to take on additional responsibilities normally carried out by the guides.

### *Desirable attributes.....*

- ◆ A reasonably confident bushwalker
- ◆ Comfortable in the bush
- ◆ Good role model
- ◆ Good level of communication
- ◆ Patient and calm during stressful situations
- ◆ Good grasp of the basic skills
- ◆ Some basic first aid training

Please contact Tristan for more details or to place an expression of interest

[tristan.flores@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:tristan.flores@det.nsw.edu.au)



Parramatta, Hills South and Blacktown Districts Out and About at Taronga Zoo

Photo courtesy of Melissa McAulay CSL 1st Rydalmere

## 1<sup>st</sup> Hazelbrook Scout Troop Overnight Bushwalk in Kanangra Boyd Wilderness Area

On the weekend of November 26 & 27, senior Scouts from 1<sup>st</sup> Hazelbrook undertook a bushwalking challenge with a difference...

On April 9, 1968, Cessna 182 registration VH-PKX departed Bankstown airport for Lake Cargelligo in western NSW. It is believed the pilot encountered bad weather and attempted to return to Bankstown. Tragically, as the plane attempted to cross the Great Dividing Range, it failed to clear the high section of Krungle Bungle Range and crashed. The pilot was the sole occupant and died instantly. The wreckage was discovered the same day.



The aircraft wreckage is still where it crashed, in a very remote area. It is difficult to navigate to via mostly untracked terrain. The nearest public road access is on Kanangra Walls Rd and requires a 30 kilometre return walk!

The party of 7 Scouts and 2 Leaders departed Hazelbrook shortly after 5 am and by around 7:30 am were parked at the locked gate at the start of Whalan's fire trail. Walking commenced and the journey took us through the old Whalania Heights homestead site and generally East. The track eventually petered out and navigation by ridge walking commenced, to follow the pre planned route. After about 10 kilometres, a suitable overnight camp site was reached and the party decided to set up camp and complete the remaining walk as a return trip day walk.

We were under way after an early lunch with day packs and emergency gear. The walk took us very close to the highest peak in Kanangra Boyd, Mt Guouogang. We then tracked more North and followed the ridge line of Hawk Fell. This was the most difficult section - with the terrain descending almost 200 metres in less than a kilometre. The more eastern section of Krungle Bungle was ascended and, while following the ridge line, the wreckage was spotted within 50 metres of the top. After a few minutes observing, but not interfering, we backtracked to camp and all safely "home" just before sunset. It had been a long and satisfying day with everyone looking forward to a good nights sleep.

Unfortunately, a check back at camp revealed a shortage of water. It appeared we had insufficient to last us through breakfast so a decision was made to walk to a watercourse in the dark and fill all available containers. One leader and 3 volunteer Scouts set off after tea and had a very slow off track traverse to the first possible creek. Unfortunately, a suitable extraction point could not be found and it was decided to keep travelling to a known supply. Several hours and 10 kilometres later, the four returned to camp with 20 litres of fresh water.

Understandably, the water fetchers were happy to have a sleep in and a lazy Sunday morning. It was early lunch by the time all were ready to depart and head straight back to our parked vehicles and home to Hazelbrook. In summary, a great weekend. The weather was perfect with Saturday night dry and mild. No moon which made the night navigation in untracked bush "interesting".

A great learning experience demonstrating what you can do if you put your mind to it. Many Scouts demonstrated maturity beyond their years, especially those on the water fetching exercise. Another real bonus was that we did not see another person from start to finish. The wilderness was ours to enjoy. No taps or tuckshops but we managed with what we carried and what we found. Well done all round.

**Attended by Scouts:** Klay Healey, Jamie Breden, Luke Stathakis, Ruairi Cuthbert-Ross, Owen Drake Saul Glasgow and Maya Dulac-Daley. **Leaders:** Krissy Ward (Wombat) and Frank Barr (Data)

For anyone interested in further information, the full Department of Civil Aviation accident report can be viewed at: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/SearchScreens/BasicSearch.aspx> and use VH-PKX for keyword search. Report is 88 pages. Map on page 19 shows how much progress in map quality over the last 60 years. Also 2 interesting videos on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6YkeVTCJU>

Frank Barr OAM



# 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.

Articles and illustrations from The Bulletin (except for copyright items) may be re-used unaltered by other Scouting publications and credits shown.

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

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

## **Please note**

**There is no January issue of The Bulletin**

**All submissions are due by January 31 for the February 2017 issue.**

**Thank you for all the reports, great photos and interesting articles that you have sent in throughout the year.**

**Merry Christmas from the Editor.**

