

# The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 451 - March 2017



**Kathy Cuneo presenting John Aquilina with his Wood Badge at the recent Cub Scout Leadership Course. Her last official act as our retiring RC AT&D**

**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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Firstly, I need to thank David Stopps for filling in whilst I was away for the last month, having a break after a hectic Adult Recognition Awards month. Well done David - you handled the challenges well.

Before I went away I was advised by Kathy Cuneo that she and her husband Graham had decided to move to the other side of Australia and settle down in Perth where they have purchased a home. Thanks for your past service to Greater Western Sydney Region - you will be missed by the many leaders and youth members whom you have been involved with.

As if Kathy's resignation was not enough - Region Commissioner Scouts, Robin Garratt resigned due to illness. Once again thanks for your past service but we know you will continue to assist the Scout section in your new role of Honorary Commissioner.

I was in Woolworths at Hervey Bay when I received a phone call from Aaron Wardle our Region Commissioner Venturer Scouts advising he had accepted the position of National Commissioner International Scouting. I almost dropped my bottle of Soda Water! Thanks for all you have done for Scouting over the past eight years.

The replacement leaders are Cassie Rec (RC Adult Training and Development), Tracey Stopps (RC Scouts) and Brian Nelson (RC Venturer Scouts). Welcome to the Region Team in your new appointments and I look forward to working with you.

Over the weekend David and myself attended the Chief Commissioner's Council at Pennant Hills and had the opportunity to meet the newly appointed Deputy Chief Commissioners. They are;

DCC Youth Programs - Randall Jones  
DCC Activities Training and Support - Wal Warrener  
DCC Program Transformation - Clair Udy  
DCC Development and Future Scouting - Belinda Francis  
Youth Commissioner - Lloyd Nurthen

We would remind all Groups that they should have a representative from Region or District at all Group ARP meetings. The reason for this is to assure that all paperwork is completed and to ensure that all groups have their books audited.

Our Region ARP will be held at 2.30pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Bundilla so put this date in your diaries. We will be presenting the inaugural Alan Overton AM Award at this meeting, so get your nominations in to me by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017.

As always.....Carry on Scouting!

**Neville Henderson OAM**  
**Region Commissioner**  
**Email: [rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au](mailto:rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au)**

**For your diary....**

**First Aid courses to be held at 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout hall.**  
**Click on the link for more information**

6<sup>th</sup> May 2017     <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/23>

5<sup>th</sup> August 2017     <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/24>

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

13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017     <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/25>





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



*Mr Ross Grove*  
**Region President**

*Mrs Debbie Howlett*  
**Region Chair**

*Mr Neville Henderson OAM*  
**Region Commissioner**

**Invite you to be present at the**

**70th GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION**

**BUNDILLA SCOUT CAMP**  
6 Baden Powell Place  
WINSTON HILLS

**On**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017 commencing at 2:30pm**

*Afternoon Tea will be served at the conclusion of the meeting*

**RSVP Region Office by Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

6 Baden Powell Place  
WINSTON HILLS NSW 2153  
Phone: 9639 2488  
Email: [gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au)

***Please cut here and return slip to Region Office***

✂ .....

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

.....

**Accepts the invitation to attend the GWSR ARP**

**Declines with regret the invitation to attend the GWSR ARP**

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## CUB SCOUT REPORT

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On Saturday March 18, we ran a very successful Cub Scout leadership Course at Bundilla Scout Camp. We had 64 cubs registered but 63 on the day with one girl unwell and unable to attend.



Sincere thanks to my Seonee Team, John Aquilina, Melissa McAulay, Michelle McLean and Shirley Robinson for all their help and support.

Also a big thank you to all the Leaders who came to help us manage such a large course - Ian Lutz Jim Abbott, Jo Hillyard, David Boulton, Gillian Miller, Andrew Selmes, Ben Staples, Stuart Bragg Peta Drake and Jane Jiang - we couldn't have done it without you, hope you enjoyed the day.

Catering for all the hungry Cubs and Leaders was ably managed, as usual by the Pinnaroo Fellowship Team under the guidance of Peter Stieme - thank you for giving up your Saturday to work for us!

The Cubs were well behaved, participated enthusiastically in all the sessions and activities and gave us some very good feedback in our Forum.

### ***Two things of interest that did come out of the forum were:***

\*The lack of Pack Councils being held in some packs. If you are not holding regular Pack Councils, you are doing a great disservice to your Cubs. Their input is essential and your Sixes and Seconds need to be given the opportunity to discuss any problems with their Six. Just need to remind you that those Cubs who wish to achieve the Grey Wolf need to have attended at least two Pack Councils in the past 12 months before applying for the Award.

\* Nearly all the Cubs said they were looking forward to going up to Scouts, but many didn't know who the SL was and had very little contact with the Scout Troop! Congratulations to the packs and their leaders who regularly do activities together or who invite the SL or a Scout to their pack meetings occasionally. For those who do not have a lot of interaction, perhaps you could address this issue at your next Group Council.

Congratulations to all the Cubs and their Leaders and Parents who took part in **Clean Up Australia Day**. You did an amazing job and should be very proud of your efforts. Hope you got a badge to put on your camp blanket!



**Correction to my last Bulletin report:** I wrote 'Tracey Stopps and the GWS Circus Team entertained the crowds at Cuboree' - wrong—of course I meant Tracey Hansford - sincere apologies to both ladies!

Best wishes to Brian Zarth RCJS and his team for a successful **Joey Scout Fun Day on April 2**. the Cub section will be running a base at this event.

A **Youth Helper Course** is booked for **May 20** at Bundilla. Please encourage your Scout/Venturer Helpers to attend. More info available on the website shortly.



**Photos from the Pack Council that was held during Cuboree. Three Cubs from each Region were invited to attend this special event. Photo courtesy of Samantha Vandenberg RCCS Hume Region**

Anne Thompson (Wontolla) RC Cub Scouts

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

## SCOUT REPORT

As I am new to the role as RC Scouts some of you may not know me. My name is Tracey Stopps. I have been involved in Scouts since 2007 when I was the Treasurer for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Blacktown. I then moved to ASL in 2008. When Mark Fell vacated the role of DL Scouts to go to Activities, I moved up as Mindari Leader until a suitable replacement was found. I then moved to SL of 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Blacktown for a while until I was needed in the Hills as District Leader Scouts.

I would like to thank Robin Garrett for his many years of service to Scouting and hope that he will continue to advise the Region in his role as Honorary Region Commissioner Scouts.

I have visited a few troops in my role so far – it's only been a couple of weeks, but I will get to visit all of you soon. Especially if you keep me busy with all the Adventurer and Australian Scout Medallions that are in progress.

Speaking of which.....Congratulations to **Ethan Battam -1<sup>st</sup> Kellyville, Chloe Harris - 1<sup>st</sup> Oakville and Abigail Ewings - 1<sup>st</sup> Parramatta** who were all awarded their **Australian Scout Medallions** late last year and to **Ajit Pillay - 1<sup>st</sup> Carlingford** who was awarded his at the Parramatta District Swimming Carnival; **Jack Hodge - 2nd Castle Hill, Alex Fry - 2nd Baulkham Hills, Robert Burrows - 1st Carlingford and James Brush - 1st Winston Hills**; all of whom are awaiting the presentation of their certificates in April. BRAVO!

I must say I have been impressed with the quality of projects and logs coming in. We look to have another eight awardees in the near future.

As you are all aware - the Jamborette is coming up. This year's theme is **'War Through the Ages'** where each district has chosen their war to represent – some are not what you would expect (but we will keep that a surprise). Registrations will be open soon but the **closing date** has been moved forward to **12<sup>th</sup> May**. There will be no early bird registration. The other big change is that we are sharing Cataract with South Met Region to make a bigger and more exciting camp. I believe that all 10.5year old Cub Scouts will be invited to camp for the whole weekend as a **'Try Scouting'** event. So Cubs need to keep an eye out for their invitations in the mail.

**Tracey Stopps (Wiangi) RC Scouts**

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

### ALAN OVERTON AM AWARD

Alan Overton AM was the Greater Western Sydney Region President from June 1994 until his retirement due to ill health on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016 a period of almost 22 years! He was also the New South Wales Branch Vice President from July 1999 until 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

The Region Executive Committee has decided to honour Alan by setting up an award in his name and the following conditions will apply:

- This is a Region Award, not connected with the Adult Recognition Awards.
- Leaders, Group Support Committee Members and Supporters can be nominated by their peers.
- This is not a youth award and the person nominated should be over 18 years.
- The committee would expect that the person nominated would be someone who has given service to Scouting over and above what would normally be expected.
- Nominations should be with the Region Commissioner by 1<sup>st</sup> May each year.
- The committee will consist of the Region Commissioner, an Honorary Commissioner and a person invited by the Region Commissioner.
- The Awardee will be announced at the Region's Annual Report Presentation each year and will have their name on a perpetual trophy and a replica given to them.

If you have any enquiries please contact me on [rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au](mailto:rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au)

**Neville Henderson OAM**  
**Region Commissioner**

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## VENTURER REPORT

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I would like to congratulate **Sophie White** from **1st Carlingford** on recently completing her **Queen's Scout Award**.

Last month we held a very successful rafting event with over 100 Venturer Scouts paddling down the Nepean River. The Mayor of Hawkesbury City Council, Clr Mary Lyons-Buckett, joined the participants on a stormy Saturday afternoon at Yarramundi Reserve and was very impressed by the diverse range of raft constructions. Some teams had spent several weeks and months preparing for the activity by designing and testing their rafts over the summer. Some were built from cans, others from plastic bottles, or barrels, or even a trampoline! It was certainly a great event and an excellent opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy plenty of social interaction across the Region. Special congratulations to **1st Blaxland** and **1st Glossodia** for their award winning efforts on the weekend.

Our Region was well represented at the **Scarf Up for Scouting** event held on Founder's Day. Our youth members attended Parliament House in Sydney to present politicians from both chambers with a specially designed scarf. The event was a great success at promoting the values of Scouting and I certainly encourage every Group to follow up with their local MP on the wonderful initiatives being conducted in your communities.

This is also my **last report** as Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts). The past eight years has been a very enjoyable experience and I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to each and every member of the Region for the great times that we have shared together. In particular, I have truly valued the opportunity to join with each Unit and participate in the local activities that make up such a great program for our youth members across GWS. Whilst I will now have a strengthened focus on International Scouting, I do look forward to remaining active in the Region and hope to visit as often as possible.

I would like to congratulate **Brian Nelson** on his appointment as the new Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts). I know that Brian will bring strong leadership to the Venturer Scout section and that we will continue to see our Region grow in the years ahead.

*I wish everyone the very best for their continued Venturing!*  
*Yours in Scouting*  
*Aaron Wardle*



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## TRAINING REPORT

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### **Farewell Kathy Cuneo**

Leaders and friends gathered to farewell Kathy Cuneo on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of March. Kathy has given 18 years of service as a Leader in GWS including Assistant Cub Scout leader, Joey Scout Leader, RC Joey Scouts RC Adult Training and Development, PLA and Assessor. We wish Kathy and Graham all the best in their new adventure in Perth.

### **Congratulations to our new Wood Badge holders**

Andrew Whiddon - 2<sup>nd</sup> Castle Hill   Mick Fry - 2<sup>nd</sup> Baulkham Hills   John Aquilina - 1<sup>st</sup> Glossodia

### **BOS – Basic Outdoor Skills**

All new Scout and Venturer Leaders, Activity Leaders, and Rovers completing training will now be required to complete Basic Outdoor Skills. This replaces the requirement to complete Level 1 Bushwalking. Complete the e-learning modules and then attend a training weekend or complete the recognition of proficiency document.

### **Personal Leader Advisors**

We have been informed that all PLA appointments will cease to exist from 1 March 2017. Current PLAs may continue to wear their tapes. The GWS training team are working to allocate a former PLA or Wood Badge holder to support new leaders in each Group.

### **Introductory Interviews**

Prior to the interview please purchase a **New Leader Kit** from the office and have the person apply for their WWCC (Working with Children Check). Introductory Interviews can be completed by a PLA or allocated Wood Badge holder for your Group. An Introductory Interview meeting will also occur on the first Thursday of the month. Book a new Leader in by emailing Region Office. Please note if no-one is booked in, the meeting will not be held.

### **Cassie Rec RC Adult Training and Development**

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



Joey Scout Course  
11th & 12th March 2017  
Pennant Hills Scout Activity Centre  
Several GWS Leaders attended this fun course!

## REGION ACTIVITIES REPORT

I certainly do not need to tell everyone it has been a rather warm February. While it is usually rain which stops activities from happening; this month it has been the heat, with a number of activities either cancelled or postponed. *Let's face it; it's not a lot of fun trying to abseil on a large rock surface, under direct sunlight, in 45° heat.* While there may be some who were disappointed, it does show a high level of integrity by the Activity Leaders, in regard to safety to all. So well done!

Earlier in the month I had the opportunity to attend Venturer Council, with some of my team leaders. It was a great opportunity to catch up, and do a bit of a show case with the Venturers, and what the Activity Team can get up to.

I also had the chance to catch up with all my Activity Counterparts from around the various Regions, at State Commissioners Council, held up at Pennant Hills. This is always a great opportunity to network together, share ideas, and eat scones, with jam and cream, for morning tea. One of the bigger issues faced by many of the Regions, is trying to find people willing to get trained up in outdoor adventurous skills. We are really very fortunate at GWS that we have an incredibly strong base of highly skilled outdoor trained people willing to give so much of their time.

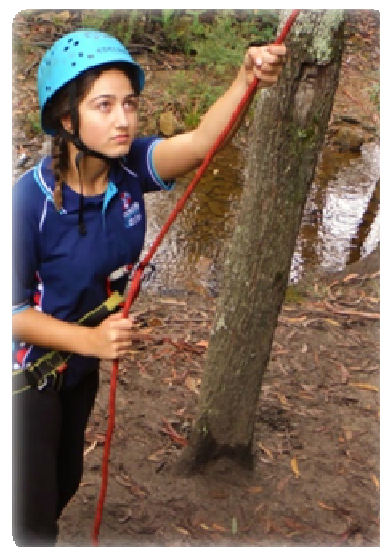
One activity I did particularly enjoy this month was a High Ropes Course held up at Dargan (near the old Zig Zag Railway). High ropes is basically just like the climbing wall, except higher, and on natural rock surfaces, and you do not need to tow it! As most natural cliffs do not have an auto belay system, the Scouts also learn the responsibilities of belaying. Yes I know that while belaying means you cannot look at your mobile phone for at least a couple of minutes, the Scouts were able to get through the "withdrawal symptoms" and survived.



Big thank you to **David (Macca) McKinley** who ran the day. This month, I was finally able to welcome Macca "officially" onto the Activities Team, as an Activity Leader. This was Macca's first activity as an Activity Leader and I know he will be a huge asset to the team.

**Belaying does require a high level of concentration, especially when the RC Act, is up on the other end!**

*"Look Mum, no hands!"  
...or was it a spider in that hole?"*  
Photo: Mark Fell



Having now put together our Activities Calendar for 2017, and yes there are some weekends with two or more activities on at the same time, and yes, Mother's Day and Father's Day are designated Scout free weekends; it still leaves about 3 - 4 free weekends in the year.....when you can mow your grass, paint the fence, wash the dog etc.!

The easiest way to see what happening is to go to the link below.

<https://www.greaterwestscouts.com.au/activities/calendar>

This shows what activities are planned month by month. Click on an activity and *hopefully* either the E1 will come up with all the details, or it will direct you to the Scout Event Portal, to register.

All activities do have number limits, so first in best dressed. Also check on closing dates so you do not miss out.

We can also run tailored activity workshops for larger groups.

*...and those scones are always so good!*

**Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities**

**Stage Manager CGS**

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



## **BUSHWALKING**

We recently ran a very successful bushwalking meeting at Bundilla Scout Camp, with an action packed full day program (see photos).

Entry level hikes are held every second month and are mostly in the Blue Mountains, Royal National Park, on the Illawarra and Central Coast. Our next entry level hikes are May 27 and 28 (Heathcote) and July 1 & 2 July (Brisbane Water). You can check out more details at [events.greaterwestscouts.com.au](http://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au)

If you do any walks with your Troop we would love for you to share them on the GWSR Bushwalking facebook page [web.facebook.com/gwsrbushwalking](http://web.facebook.com/gwsrbushwalking). Photos are an ideal way to share ideas and info about new locations and track conditions. It can also inspire others to try a new walk.

**Tristan Flores**

**GWSR Leader Bushwalking**

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



Jenolan (Harrys) River via Hellgate Canyon January 15 to 19, 2017

Photos courtesy of Brian Nelson, Mick Barr and Tristan Flores



## GWSR APPOINTMENTS LIST - 13/12/2016 - 13/2/2017



### APPOINTMENTS and TRANSFERS

<b>HENDERSON, Geoff</b>	From TL (Region)	GWSR
	To RL	GWSR
<b>MILLS, Warwick</b>	From ASL	1st Dural Scout group
	To GL-P	1st Dural Scout Group

### RESIGNATIONS

<b>HAMMOND, Jamie</b>	ACSL	1st Hazelbrook Cub Pack <i>Cumbora</i>
<b>MUNRO, Yvette</b>	AJSL	1st Hazelbrook Joey Scout Mob
<b>OWEN, Andrew</b>	ACSL	1st Castle Hill Cub Pack <i>Kookaburra</i>
<b>SWEEP, Kira</b>	TL (S)	1st Toongabbie Scout Troop
<b>TRUSCOTT, Naomi</b>	ASL	1st Westmead Scout Troop
<b>WOOD, Katherine</b>	ACSL	1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Cub Pack
<b>WOOD, Stuart</b>	SL	1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Cub Pack

## THE GOLDEN WEST APPOINTMENTS LIST - 12/12/2016 - 13/2/2017



### APPOINTMENTS and TRANSFERS

<b>TAYLOR, Lyndall</b>	From TL (VS)	1st Dubbo Venturer Unit
	To VSL - P	1st Dubbo Venturer Unit

### RESIGNATIONS

<b>CHAMBERS, Luke</b>	TL (VS)	3rd Orange Venturer Unit
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# Myths and Legends

## NSW Cuboree online shop, now open!

Looking for the perfect gift for your Cub or Leader?

Now that Cuboree is over and fast becoming a distant memory, it is not too late to purchase some of the Myths and Legends merchandise from the NSW Cuboree online shop.

### What Cuboree Merchandise is still available?

The Cuboree Merchandise range includes:

Wristband \$2



Sharpener/rubber \$3



Bag tag \$4



Highlighter \$5



2014 Torch \$5



School Pack \$10



Cuboree hat \$8



Cuboree shirt \$15



Cuboree badge set \$25



Wine glasses \$25



Prices range  
from \$2.00  
through to  
\$25.00.

Visit the NSW Cuboree online shop at <https://shop.nswcuboree.com.au/3-2017> to make your purchase! Purchases are not limited to those that attended the event, so please pass these details on to those that missed out.

Yours in Scouting,

**Gabie Thompson**  
Merchandise Manager  
6th NSW Cuboree

## 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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