

The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 452 - April 2017



They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.



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

Website: www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER

I have just received the results from Dragon Skin and our Venturers did our Region proud. We had 18 teams compete and 4 of those teams came in the top 50. Congratulations to **30 Neverest Team** from **1st Westmead Unit** who came 8th place overall. Well done !!

Don't forget our Annual Reporting Meeting will be held on Sunday 7th May 2017 at 2.30pm at Bundilla and we would be pleased to see as many as possible attend. The Alan Overton AM Award will be presented at the meeting and the committee will meet shortly to choose the inaugural recipient.

By now the Group ARP Meetings should be underway and a District or Region Representative needs to be organised to attend. The Group Financial books should already be audited as the meeting cannot go ahead without an Auditor Report.

The Scout Jamborette is only a few weeks away and I hope all troops are getting their plans in order. I will be visiting with David Stopps for a day over the weekend and look forward to catching up with the leaders and youth members.

I hope that all Leaders and Supporters have now completed the E-Bully module as the Chief Commissioner will be looking at members who have not done this module.

This month has been rather quiet as I have been away for part of it but I am back in full swing now.

Until next time...carry on Scouting.

Neville Henderson OAM JP

Region Commissioner

Email: rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au

2017 Joey Scout badge placement

Please make sure your Joey Scouts badge placement is correct.

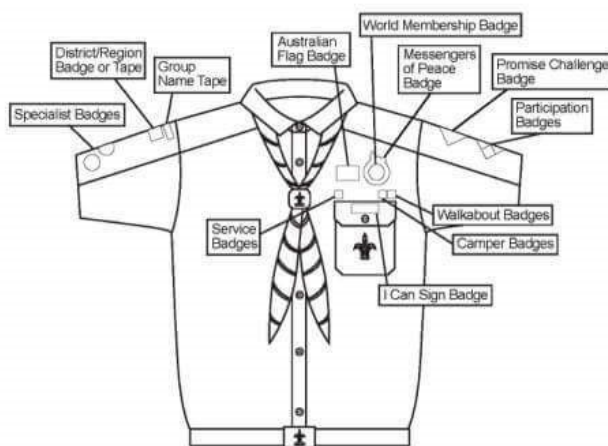
Joey Scouts who have been in your mob before this year may still keep the old placement, BUT all new Joey Scouts must use the new placement.

Also - there must only be ONE event badge (right side chest) on any section shirt at a time.

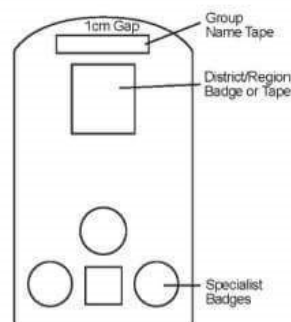
New badge placements can be found on Scout Central under Resources; click on parents or leader resources then badge placement.

Jill Heath

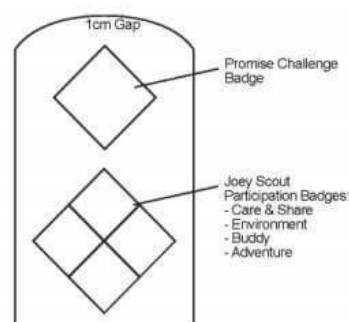
State Commissioner Joey Scouts



JOEY SCOUT RIGHT SLEEVE



JOEY SCOUT LEFT SLEEVE





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 7th May 2017 commencing at 2:30pm

Afternoon Tea will be served at the conclusion of the meeting

RSVP Region Office by Friday, 5th May 2017

6 Baden Powell Place
WINSTON HILLS NSW 2153
Phone: 9639 2488
Email: 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

CUB SCOUT REPORT

Congratulations to Brian Zarth and his Team who organised a great Joey Scout Fun Day on April 2 at Bundilla, despite a crazy day weatherwise - I think we experienced it all! The Cub section ran a Jungle Book themed base - my sincere thanks to Shirley Robinson and Gabie Thompson for helping on the day. It was nice to have a session off so we could visit other activity bases and catch up with friends and fellow Leaders, who were all working hard to give the Joeys a fun time.

By now, I am sure that most of the CSLs have heard that there will be **no organised Cub Day at the Jamborette** at Cataract in June. This was a unanimous decision made by Region Seeonee based on the information we had at the time. It was not an easy decision to make and we do hope that it hasn't upset too many Packs. Of course this does not stop Cub Scouts who are linking to Scouts, from participating in the event as they normally would, following discussion and organisation between the CSL and SL at Group Council.

The Region Youth Council has also kindly issued invitations to our Cub Scouts 10.5 years and up, to attend the Jamborette as a **Try Scouts** event. This will need to be arranged by the individual SLs and their Groups. We were hoping to organise a Try Scouts event later on in the year, a bit closer to our home Region to make participation easier. We will let you know what has been organised after consulting with Region Mindari and the Region SYC.

Our annual **Youth Helper course** will be held on **Saturday 20th May** at Bundilla. Full details are on the Region website and applications close on Friday 5th May. Get your application in now - don't miss out.

Anne Thompson (Wontolla) RC Cub Scouts

Email: cubs@greaterwestscouts.com.au

GWSR APPOINTMENTS LIST

26/12/16 and 7/2/2017



APPOINTMENTS and TRANSFERS

MACCORMICK, Jane	From AVSL	1st Glossodia Venturer Unit
	To VSL-P	1st Glossodia Venturer Unit
WACIEGA, Karlina	From T/L (CS)	2nd Baulkham Hills Cub Pack <i>Rumbriah</i>
	To ACSL	2nd Baulkham Hills Cub Pack <i>Rumbriah</i>

RESIGNATIONS

GAO, Mei	CSL-P	1st Carlingford Cub Pack <i>Alleena</i>
KARA-KINGSTON, Tyler	T/L (V)	1st Kings Langley Venturer Unit
OLUFSEN, Corey	GL	1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Scout Group
PERCEVAL, Justin	T/L (V)	1st Kings Langley Venturer Unit
WICKS, John	VSL-P	1st Glossodia Venturer Unit

THE GOLDEN WEST APPOINTMENTS LIST

7/2/2017



RESIGNATIONS

CURAN, Wendy	Appointed T/L (S)	1st Kandos Venturer Unit
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SCOUT REPORT

Batman and I attended the ASM State citation awards at Hornsby RSL. We were very proud to see seven awardees from GWS – the most we have ever had! Congratulations and Bravooo!!!!

Scouts have been doing District camps, Hiking, Canoeing, Caving, a surf camp, Air Activities and lots more.

Jamborette registrations are open!! If you are with a Group, Troop, Unit or Crew please try to register as one registration. Have only one person doing the registrations then an email will be sent to individuals to complete their personal details. Remember there is no need for paper applications this year – we are trying to help the planet!

All 10½ year old Cub Scouts should have received their invitations by now from the Region Youth Council, to camp with their Scout troop. If you have not received your invitation please talk to your CSL as to why – maybe your details need to be updated in Scoutlink. If cubs wish to attend and they do not have a troop to camp with please notify me, through your CSL or through Region as soon as possible so we can find a troop they can camp with.

Scout leaders and cub scout leaders please encourage these cubs to camp as it is a great opportunity for them to get to know the scouts and the leaders in time for their linking and it is part of their 'Try Scouting' linking process. I will be working with the RCCS to organise a 'Try Scouting' event later in the year - details to follow. It is sad this year that there will not be a 'Cub Day' on the Sunday as such, but we are encouraging any cub that wishes to attend for the day to do so. Negotiations are going well with South Met for the Jamborette. The activities we are hopefully using are Flying Fox, Archery, Abseiling, Caving, Challenge Valley, Climbing Wall x2, and maybe a horizontal bungee.....

NEWS

There are new guidelines on Patrol Tent for the ASM and Adventurer Cord. Basically this will mean the Troop council will be completely involved in the planning and approval process. The process is very detailed and explicit. This is the new direction of scouts. The Scout leader also has guidelines to follow. Everybody please check out www.patroltent.com for more information!!!!

Tracey Stopps (Wiangi) RC Scouts

Email: scouts@greaterwestscouts.com.au



**(L-R) Robin Garrett, Robert Burrows, Ajit Pillai, James Brush, Jack Hodge
Abigail Ewings, Ethan Battam, Alex Fry and Tracey Stopps**

VENTURER REPORT

Last month has seen something of a seismic shift for GWSR Venturers with Aaron Wardle moving to the role of National Commissioner for International Scouting after eight years of service in the Region Commissioner role. Aaron will continue to have an ongoing relationship with the Region as an Honorary Commissioner. We do thank him for his dedication and leadership.

Thirteen of our Venturers and Aaron attended the Queen's Scout Award ceremony at Government House during the month and I attended a ceremony at 1st Castle Hill Scout Hall to present Queen's Scout Awards to Ryan Barton and Alex Hourd. Congratulations everyone.

As we approached the end of first term, the focus turned to preparing for Dragon Skin. After a few stops and starts with the wet weather, a raft of Venturing Skills Award hikes have been completed with a few more still to come. The weather has played havoc with a number of activities that have seen some adventurous activities workshops postponed or cancelled. Keep your eye on the Region calendar for rescheduled dates.

Last month we held an Environment Course at Bundilla and Lake Parramatta for seven Venturers. One highlight of this was with Friends of Colo River who provided rubber dinghies to weed parts of the lake. We removed something like 200 kg of weeds from the shores of the lake. We also held a Unit Management Course at Bundilla for 27 Venturers from GWS, Sydney North and South Metropolitan Regions. Thanks to Shaun Lesslie, Rob Wood, Tristan Hornstra and Adelle Lockman for their help with running and presenting at these courses.

April looks to be busy as ever for GWSR Venturers with Dragon Skin over the Easter long weekend and planning for the GWS Jamborette in June.

Special thanks to all the GWSR Venturer leaders for helping me get through my first month in the job. I have been able to visit nearly half the Units in the Region. I look forward to catching up with everyone.

Brian Nelson (Sparky) RC Venturer Scouts

Email: venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au



Environment Course
at
Lake Parramatta

Unit Management
Course at Bundilla



BUSHWALKING

Here are some photos from our weekend hike at Broken Bay. There were plenty of spectacular views of the bay as we climbed the ridge. The sections around Rocky Ponds were rather bushy and appeared to have some recent storm damage. These more challenging sections are often where we learn the most; it was interesting to compare our pace on the sections before and after. This was a good example of how terrain, vegetation and obstacles can have an effect on energy consumption and timing. In fact, this was one of the most effective hikes in terms of learning by doing and putting skills into practice I have seen so far. I was very pleased by the effort of both Patrols to work together and navigate safely through the landscape - well done and keep it up!

Tristan Flores Bushwalking Leader

Email: bushwalking@greaterwestscouts.com.au



REGION ACTIVITIES REPORT



I have often heard the saying “*you will never get bored of the weather here in Australia!*” Last month I mentioned we had to cancel a number of activities due to excessive heat; coming out of one of the hottest February’s on record. This month we have just experienced one of the wettest. Of course this has played havoc with so many planned activities.



It is however great to see the resourcefulness of so many. Can’t camp here because it is too wet, but we can go to this other more suitable location, so no one misses out. Even a number of planned hikes, which involved crossing creeks, were re-routed to more appropriate areas.

Of course this is not always the case. Water activities have particularly suffered, with cancelled canoe workshops along with the Joey & Cub Water Fun Day which was to be held at Lake Parramatta. High water levels, along with very poor water quality, have been typical of all our local waterways at present. We are endeavouring to re-run as many activities as we can, however with a very busy activities programme, will make it a bit of a challenge.



Please be kind to both Kim and Wendy in the Region Office. Cancelled courses are one thing; but it’s the process of arranging refunds etc. which is creating a huge amount of additional paperwork.



A young Joey enjoying the Flying Fox at the JS Fun Day

The Joeyes certainly benefited from a cancelled Canoe Workshop as a few of us, including myself, originally going canoeing, were able to join up with the Joey Fun Day, helping out on the Flying Fox Climbing Wall and Circus Team.

A big thank you to Quentin Napier, Stuart Cowen Zoe Cowen and Simon Edwards for their efforts on the Fox, along with Frank and Judy Barr, who spent the day helping out on the Climbing Wall. Tracey Hansford was also active on the Circus Team, along with John Leahy who ran another fascinating Science base.



Drop Bears are one thing, but a Croc up a tree is a worry!

Photos: Mark Fell

With all the activities which do happen, invariably there will be occasions when things do go wrong. A recent Green Level Hike in the mountains ended up with a helicopter rescue of an injured Scout, who fell while descending off Mt Solitary. In these situations we always do an incident “*debrief*” with those involved: What can we learn? How can we improve on things? What should we do differently next time?

All the Scouts involved have been praised for their actions in raising the alarm, ensuring their own safety, and remaining very controlled throughout the whole ordeal. One positive note which came out of this incident from the Police was how well the Scouts were equipped and how they were able to stay fairly level headed, in what was a fairly difficult situation.

Even on the paperwork side of things, I was fully aware of the activity, having been provided with full documentation of the activity prior to the event, including a late change of route, to avoid a river crossing. I have often said that “the E1 Part 3 is your Insurance Policy”. Hopefully you do not need it, but when you do, it becomes a very important document, as it did in this case. Fortunately our injured Scout has made a full recovery and is looking forward to getting back into it again.

David (Macca) McKinley was able to dodge the wet weather and ran a successful Abseiling Workshop up at West Pennant Hills which was enjoyed by all.

I would like to pass on my thanks to the Region for allowing me to purchase more gear for the rock teams. This included more carabiners, harnesses and leather riggers gloves. What with a very active rock team, covering

abseiling, canyoning, caving and high ropes - it does put a heavy demand on equipment and in particular items such as harnesses, which have manufacturers 'Use by Dates'.

While on rock stuff just a reminder on the **Process for Booking the Climbing Wall.**

- The wall is booked through Region Office, and not myself.
- The office will then contact myself to arrange for a qualified instructor/s and transport of the wall.

Unfortunately the current qualifications to run the wall are particularly high, which does mean we have only a limited people who can actually run it. Likewise with transporting the wall, we only have a limited number of people who have suitably equipped vehicles to tow the wall.



Hopefully we can now put our umbrellas away. The heat of summer is but a distant memory and we can get stuck into some serious stuff again....especially canoeing, before it gets too cold! We just love the weather here in Australia!

Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities

Stage Manager CGS

Email: activities@greaterwestcouts.com.au

1ST ERMINGTON SCOUT GROUP—TROPHY CELEBRATION

The Parramatta District Swimming Carnival held on February 24, 2017, was a pivotal event for the 1st Ermington Scout Group. The Scouts had previously managed to hold the Troop trophies for the Parramatta District Competition Camp, Parramatta District Wide Game and Parramatta District Raft Race. The Swimming Carnival trophy was the only one missing from the Hall; a feat which if achieved, would be a significant and notable event for the Group. Spurred on by honour and glory; the encouragement of Leaders and the promise of a celebration event - the Scouts attended the Carnival en masse! The competition was strong and all participants equally worthy of winning, but the 1st Ermington Scouts managed to seize victory.

The Trophy Night celebration was held on March 30, 2017 in order to recognise the Scout Section for the significant achievement of simultaneously holding all four of the Troop trophies from all of the Parramatta District Scout events (in addition to two Patrol trophies)! To mark the occasion, the Scouts had their photo taken with the trophies, along with the attending Joeys, Cubs, Venturers, Leaders and Families. Although it was a damp and rainy evening, the spirits of everyone were warmed by the pleasant company, hot party food and subsequent pizza. We also enjoyed a photo/video slideshow of some of the activities that the Scouts had participated in over the years, before finishing with dessert and other delicious treats provided by thoughtful parents. The 1st Ermington Scout Group Committee congratulates our Scout Troop and Leaders for holding the four trophies together in the Hall; an event that we believe to be the first such occasion that our Group has accomplished. We trust that the other Groups in Parramatta District will be doing their best to make sure that our achievement runs for as short a time as possible!

Steven Spagnolo, Chairperson - 1st Ermington Group Committee



My sincere apologies for the extreme lateness of this Bulletin!

Just a reminder that I really do need all of your reports, stories, photos etc. in by the end of each month, so that the newsletter can be published at least by the second week of every month.

All articles need to be in Word or Publisher format and photos in JPEG format please.

Thanks Anne



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

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