



# The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 453 - May 2017



Calling all **Scouts**, **Venturers**, **Rovers** and **Leaders**

## SCOUT SNOW TRIP

Come along and join us on  
21-23 July 2017

For an AWESOME weekend in the snow

### Included

- 2 nights at the Alpine activities centre
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- All transport from Sydney/Canberra including mountain transfers
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**GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION OFFICE**

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

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

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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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It was great to see many leaders and supporters turn up at the Region ARP and in particular Alan Overton our previous Region President and his wife. It was good to see Alan in such good spirits. Alan was given a special presentation by the NSW Chief Commissioner, Neville Tomkins, for his service to the Branch Council as the Vice President for 17 years.

Alan was also able to present the prestigious Alan Overton AM Award to Anne Thompson our Region Commissioner (Cub) Scouts, the inaugural winner. Anne has given 24 years service to Scouting and goes above and beyond the service required by a leader in her position. Congratulations from us all in Greater Western Sydney Region and well deserved Anne.

Those who attended the meeting received a copy of our Annual Report and if you wish to read a copy it will be on our website shortly. Thanks to Matt Thompson the Region Commissioner Communications and Public Relations on the time you committed to producing this excellent publication.

At the meeting our Region Treasurer, Paul Thompson stood down from the role and I thank him for the four years he has served on our Executive. A new face will be Greg Brown who has agreed to take on the vacant position. Welcome aboard Greg.

Thanks to the Westmead Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship and members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Westmead Scout section for assisting with the afternoon tea. As usual the afternoon tea was made possible with the generous donation from the Gumnut Patisserie at Mittagong, Bowral and Berrima. Thanks to Tracey for the excellent afternoon tea.

I had the pleasure to attend the Queen's Scout Award presentation for Mitchell Gallagher from 1<sup>st</sup> Kings Langley Venturer Unit on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Well done Mitchell on this achievement. A special thank you to the Venturer Leaders, the Unit members and Mitchell's parents who have all helped him through the journey.

During the next 12 months we will be concentrating on increasing our numbers both through recruitment and also through retention. I look for an increase in our Youth numbers of around 100 this year and it would be great to see at least another 50 leaders on our books as well. This means that if each section within your group increased their numbers by 1 youth member we would achieve our target. To this end I have asked the District Commissioners and the Region Section Leaders to come up with their ideas for growth at our May Region Council. Please let me know if you have any ideas of how we can achieve our growth.

By now most groups should have completed their ARP or have a date booked— make sure the books are audited before the meeting.

Until next time.....carry on Scouting

**Neville Henderson OAM JP**

**Region Commissioner**

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



**NSW Chief Commissioner, Neville Tomkins presents Mr Alan Overton OAM with a special award for his 17 years of service as Vice President to the Branch Council.**

**L-R: Mrs and Mr Overton, Neville Tomkins, Ross Grove and Debbie Howlett**

*Photos: Matthew Thompson RC Communications and PR*

## GWSR APPOINTMENTS LIST to 8/5/2017



### APPOINTMENTS and TRANSFERS

<b>AQUILINA, John</b>	Fellowship Member	Hawkesbury Black Horse Scout Fellowship
<b>BURROWS, Noriko</b>	ASL	1st Carlingford Scout Troop <i>Bartoo</i>
	SL	1st Carlingford Scout Troop <i>Bartoo</i>
<b>LEAHY, John</b>	Fellowship Member	Hawkesbury Black Horse Scout Fellowship

### RESIGNATIONS

<b>WALTERS, Ryan</b>	ASL	1st Carlingford Scout Troop <i>Bartoo</i>
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## THE GOLDEN WEST APPOINTMENTS LIST to 8/5/2017



### APPOINTMENTS and TRANSFERS

<b>PASCOE, Kerry-Sue</b>	TL (JS) AJSL	3rd Broken Hill Joey Scout Mob 3rd Broken Hill Joey Scout Mob
<b>HILLS, Chardonelle</b>	TL (CS) CSL-P	3rd Orange Cub Pack 3rd Orange Cub Pack
<b>MILLER, Megan</b>	Appt TL (CS) ACSL	1st Dubbo Cub Pack 1st Dubbo Cub Pack
<b>WATSON-STANDISH, Anne</b>	ASL AJSL	1st Dubbo Scout troop 1st Dubbo Joey Mob

### RESIGNATIONS

<b>CARTER, Annabel</b>	TL (S)	3rd Parkes Scout Troop
<b>COLE, Amy</b>	TL (CS)	3rd Orange Cub Pack
<b>DUNN, Luke</b>	TL (S)	3rd Parkes Scout Troop
<b>UPTON, Leanne</b>	Appt TL (R)	The Golden West Region
<b>WRIGHT, Stephen</b>	Appt TL (G)	3rd Orange Scout Group

## ALAN OVERTON AM AWARD

Congratulations to Anne Thompson on receiving the inaugural Alan Overton AM Award for exceptional service to Scouting in Greater Western Sydney Region at the recent 70th GWS Region Annual Report presentation. Anne is the editor of our Gangway newsletter, leader of our Customer Service & Souvenirs team and a long-time supporter of Cumberland Gang Show as well as the Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts) for GWSR. ***Bravo and a big 1-2-3 WOOF from all the Gang!***



## CUB SCOUT REPORT

A most enjoyable and successful combined **Water Fun Day for Cubs and Joeys** was held on April 29 at Lake Parramatta. A very big thank you to Tracey Hansford for organising the event and to everyone who helped her on the day.

Our annual **Youth Helper course** was held last Saturday May 20 at Bundilla. There were 7 Venturers from GWS and 3 from Hunter & Coastal on course. They were an absolute delight to work with - funny, enthusiastic and keen to participate. We wish them well for their future Scouting and thank them for volunteering their time to be Youth Helpers; they will be valuable assets to their chosen sections (5 for Joey Scouts 3 for Cub Scouts and 2 for Scouts).



My sincere thanks to Shirley Robinson for being a wonderful assistant on course and to all our special guests; Neville Henderson and Brian Nelson who came to talk to the Venturers; Jeff Hook, Lyn Mann and Tracey Stopps who covered the section specific sessions with the Venturers and Andy Thompson who cooked lunch for us. We couldn't have done it without your help and support, thank you all.

Our next important Region event will be **Palaver on July 29 from 9am to 4pm at Bundilla Scout Camp**. The day will cover 'outdoor Scouting' and some 'badgework' less frequently used. It won't be all hard work! There will be plenty of fun mixed in with the opportunity to learn new skills or brush up on your old ones! So please put this date in your diary and join us. Registrations will be on the EMS in June. We ask all Group Leaders and Leaders in Charge to encourage all of their Cub Scout Leaders and Youth Helpers to attend Palaver.

To make up for the lack of a Cub day at the Jamborette, a **Parramatta Ramble** will be held on **September 17** for the Region. Full details and registration will be available on the EMS by mid July.

To all my family, friends and colleagues - thank you for your kind messages of congratulations on my receiving the inaugural Alan Overton Award. I was totally surprised when my name was announced - I could not have achieved it without all your support and friendship - it's been an amazing 24 years of Scouting - a heartfelt thank you to all.

**Anne Thompson (Wontolla) RC Cub Scouts**

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



**Youth Helper Course - May 20, 2017**

*Far right:*

**Lyn Mann shows us her latest Joey Scout uniform model - the original Skippy!**

## SCOUT REPORT

**Jamborette** registrations are now closed!! We have had over 1,000 applications! 102 for out of Region! It should be an amazing Jamborette this year!!

Now the hard work starts for our lovely Region Office Ladies - Kim and Wendy. They still need to process all the payments and registrations - so please ensure all information and payments are provided to them ASAP. They do an amazing job and it is difficult when there are stragglers. **You don't want to miss out by not finishing the ePermissions and payment.**

Congratulations to Lauren King of 1<sup>st</sup> Rydalmere who received her Adventurer Cord last week. I was very proud to present her with her certificate at their ARP. **BRAVO!!!**

Scouts were very well represented at the many ANZAC Day ceremonies. We had 60 scouts and leaders from Blacktown attend the march in Canberra. By all accounts it was a successful trip and they were commended by the ACT Scout Commissioner on their attendance and a member of the public commended them on their behaviour! Well done everyone for representing us in such a way....BRAVO!

It was great to see so many Scouts attending the ceremonies but please ensure you wear the correct uniforms for this occasion as it is a most solemn event. Beige or dark blue pants only and a neat, tidy, ironed shirt!!

Please also make sure the badges worn on your uniforms are 'approved badges' for the uniform and in the correct place. These can be found in your books or online.

Other activities the Scouts have been up to include: SCUBA Diving, a Car Wash, the Amazing Race, Canoeing and Hiking.

### \*\*\*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](http://www.patroltent.com) for more information!!

**Tracey Stopps (Wiangi) RC Scouts**

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



ANZAC Day in  
Canberra



## VENTURER REPORT

I would like to congratulate Mitchell Gallagher from 1st Kings Langley on completing his Queen's Scout Award. I am aware of another eight Venturers from the Region close to completing their award, so it's going to be another big year for us.

Congratulations also to David Jacobs on being appointed State Commissioner (Venturer Scouts). David is well known to GWSR Venturers through his work on the entertainment team on VOC4 at Dragon Skin.

It was a big month for activities with seven Venturers hiking the Six Foot Track in April and a large number of Venturers and Leaders from the Region attending Dragon Skin at Newnes over the Easter weekend. Congratulations to teams Neverest from 1st Westmead who placed 8th and Blazing Saddles from 1st South Penrith who came in 18th. This is the best result for the Region in some time. Great result all around!

Four members of the Region were preparing for the 10th VCP German National Jamboree in the middle of this year with a pre-Jamboree camp in Sydney that included an overnight expedition in the Royal National Park during the summer heatwave!

We held a successful Initiative Course at Scheyville National Park for the first time. This used to be the Army's Officer Training Unit until it was closed in the 1970s, allowing for a range of "incidents" with a difference. Thanks to Glenn & Dee Daines and Matt Vella for their hard work putting the new course together.

We had big attendances at over 20 different Anzac Day services and marches from the mountains to the city. While the standard of uniform can sometimes improve, I was pleased with the standard in the photos I have seen.

In May, our attention turns to preparation for the long weekend in June, either at Jamborette or at Unit camps. Good to see us out and active.

**Brian Nelson (Sparky) RC Venturer Scouts**

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

**Team Neverest Dragon Skin - 8th place**



**1st/2nd Merrylands (ANZAC Day)**



**Dragon Skin Boots**



## **BUSHWALKING**

I often walk down to Echo Point for some exercise in the evenings; the other night I found myself intrigued by a small flicker of orange in the distance (most likely a campfire). It was a dark night so I moved away from the background lights. After my eyes had adjusted I was able to work out the profile of the Korrowall Knife Edge to the left of the flicker.

Every now and again a white light appeared below and moving to the right of the flicker - most likely a trail runner on Federal Pass. This helped me to estimate the location of the flicker to be on the ridge at Ruined Castle. The tiny orange glow stimulated a lot of memories for me, and reminded me just how much I enjoy camping under the stars in these distant places.

It is wonderful to see so many people joining us for region hikes this year. The year has only just begun and we have already completed Jenolan River, Wobby Beach to Woy Woy and Six Foot Track.

In the April school holidays we departed on a four day version of the Six Foot Track. We camped at Coxs River, Alum Creek and Black Range. Congratulations to all participants and thank you to all volunteers who made it possible. Crossing wild rivers and climbing mountain ranges are not things you do every day - so I hope this experience inspires you to dream big.

It was great to hear that we were able to help a couple of leaders cross this hike off their bucket list!

**Tristan Flores Bushwalking Leader**

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



*Photos courtesy of Brian Nelson, Joy Decelis and Tristan Flores*



## 20<sup>th</sup> Region Hike Celebration

### GWSR Bushwalking

Heathcote 2:30 pm, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017

We would like to invite you to join our team for a special afternoon tea after the completion of the 20th region hike to celebrate and look back on some of the adventures we have shared in the national parks around Sydney over the past 3 years. On the region hikes we have accumulated a distance of 400 km over 43 days since the trial in September 2014.

The afternoon tea will take place in the Veno Street Park near IGA in Heathcote. We are camping in Heathcote NP on Saturday night and hiking to Heathcote on Sunday via Heathcote Scout Camp. We expect to arrive in Heathcote around 2:30 pm. Please wear your scarf and bring some pocket money for afternoon tea. Families are most welcome to join us.

### GWSR Bushwalking

#### Special Presentation to Connor Kennedy

Jenolan Caves, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017



Connor Kennedy from 1st South Penrith was presented with an honorary Activities NSW badge formerly worn by Activity Leaders, in recognition of his contribution to bushwalking in GWSR. Connor has assisted on all four day region hikes since our first trial "Coxs River Loop" in April 2016.

Connor is an outstanding role model and mentor for the Scouts.

Connor will be busy with his studies for a while so we might not see him as regularly. On behalf of the team and participants we would like to take this opportunity to thank Connor for his dedicated service.





**CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW PRESENTS:**

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A SPECTACULAR MUSICAL VARIETY PERFORMANCE -  
OUR FANTASTIC YOUNG CAST SING, ACT AND DANCE TO  
SHOW YOU HOW TO LIVE FOR THE MOMENT, LAUGH AT  
THE MEMORIES AND PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE!

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# PEN PALS WANTED



There is a current shortage of Pen pal participants in NSW and in Australia.

We are seeking 10 to 15 year old male and female Cubs and Scouts who can be matched with a pen pal from across the world.

Pen pals are a great opportunity to have an International experience at minimal cost and can also be used for badge work.

It is a great introduction to other ways of Scouting from across the world.

More information can be found at  
**[www.scouts.com.au/penpals](http://www.scouts.com.au/penpals)**

Any questions, feel free to reach out.

Robert Slater  
State Commissioner – International  
Scouts Australia NSW  
**Email: [bc.international@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:bc.international@nsw.scouts.com.au)**

**Our 2017 cast is the biggest yet!  
190 Scouts and Guides are busy  
rehearsing dance moves, songs and  
scripts ready for our spectacular show  
in the July school holidays.**

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for more information and to register for  
our youth member  
show bags.**

**[www.gangshow.asn.au](http://www.gangshow.asn.au)**

## SCOUT JOB WEEK

This annual event is a proud Scouting tradition and in 2017 Scouts across NSW will once again show their community spirit by lending a hand in their local communities and undertaking various jobs for a just reward.

Scouts have the opportunity to learn new skills interact with people in their local neighbourhood and raise funds for their Scout Group. All money raised stays with the local Group and goes towards updating equipment, refurbishing Scout Halls and funding future Scout activities.

Scout Job Week is the time to step up and be an active citizen in your community.

**Register your interest today on the  
Scouts NSW website!**

## REGION ACTIVITIES REPORT

....Ok, I think we have it right, now!

Heat has gone; rain has gone; mornings a bit cooler now. Finally, we have had a good run of weather that has enabled the Activities Team to get out and do their stuff! ...and also catch up on a number of activities that have been postponed over the last few months.



The climbing wall was in action again at the Rouse Hill Billy Cart Derby, which was a great day. Thank you to Gabby Thompson for putting it all together. As always, the climbing wall was a great hit, and being held on a Saturday, with lots of people around, certainly a great opportunity to let everyone know about "Scouting"

Anyone who has been to Bundilla recently may have noticed a climbing wall slowly coming in life. This is our own wall, which we hope to have operating in the not too distant future. This will be a great asset for the Region.

The only issue is we do need more people qualified to set it up, and actually run it. I have been pushing for a dedicated climbing wall course, which people can do, giving them suitable qualifications to set up and run the wall. The current qualifications are SIS Level 2 Abseiling, which is quite involved, and not necessarily totally relevant to running a self-belay climbing wall.

Our Caving Team ran a very successful Weekend down at Wee Jasper with around 100 participants. This was quite a significant trip as it was the 10 year anniversary, since we started running weekend Caving Workshops to Wee Jasper. We even had some cavers coming across from SA Scouts, to join up for the weekend.



Photo: David Macca) McKinley



One of the big highlights for myself this month was the Joey Cub Water Fun Day held at Lake Parramatta, organized by Tracey Hansford. Postponed from an earlier date due to rain, the day weatherwise was just spectacular, with over 170 Joeys and Cubs rotating through a number of well organised activities, including canoeing. While most have perfected the paddling around in circles skills, many surprised me with some straight line paddling skills as well. It also gave me an opportunity to brush up on my 'T' rescue skills on a number of occasions. But apart from the paddling, it was the young Joeys and Cubs themselves that really made the day. The smiles said it all. They were all there to just have fun. Lots of fun!





*When you have lots of youth, you need lots of canoes!*  
*Photos Mark Fell*

While on canoeing, I did a recent reconnaissance trip up Webbs Creek from Wisemans Ferry, with a planned overnight canoe trip coming up at the end of May.

**Putting on one of my other scouting hats now!**

If you are looking for a new challenge over the July School Holidays, I may be able to help you! If you think a flat is only something you get on a car; a cue is only used on a billiard table and UV is something to do with the sun; then you have the perfect skills. Or at least we will train you to have the perfect skills, as part of the famous backstage team, at Cumberland Gangshow. It is pretty full on for the two weeks, but a huge amount of fun!

For further details on this, or anything to do with the Region Activities you can email me.

<activities@greaterwestscouts.com.au>

Enough of this. Time to get out again and find something new to explore!

**Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities**

**Stage Manager CGS**

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



**Mitchell Gallagher**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Kings Langley Venturer Unit**  
 cutting his cake during his  
**Queen's Scout Award presentation.**

*L to R Domenic, Mitchell and Kellie Gallagher*

*Photo: Brendan Richards ACSL  
 1st Kings Langley*

**SCOUTS PROGRAMME**

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Minimum of 10 children per booking. Requires at least 2 hours, depending upon group numbers. Leaders indoor Skydive for free. one leader per 15 kids experiences indoor Skydiving for free.

## **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**

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

**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**

