



The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 454 - June 2017




CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW PRESENTS:



LIVE LAUGH SMILE

7TH - 15TH JULY 2017

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IN PERSON: Riverside Theatres
 Cnr Church St & Market St, Parramatta
ENQUIRIES: www.gangshow.asn.au

2017 PERFORMANCES:

DATE	TIME	CAST	PERFORMANCE
FRIDAY 7TH JULY	7.30PM	GILBERT	EVENING
SATURDAY 8TH JULY	2.00PM	SULLIVAN	MATINEE
SATURDAY 8TH JULY	7.30PM	SULLIVAN	EVENING
SUNDAY 9TH JULY	2.00PM	GILBERT	MATINEE
WEDNESDAY 12TH JULY	2.00PM	SULLIVAN	MATINEE
FRIDAY 14TH JULY	7.30PM	GILBERT	FINALE EVENING
SATURDAY 15TH JULY	2.00PM	GILBERT	MATINEE
SATURDAY 15TH JULY	7.30PM	SULLIVAN	FINALE EVENING


 Ticket prices and promotions are listed on the website.
 Indulge with our Premium VIP Package: strictly subject to availability.
 Includes back stage tour! Transaction fees apply.
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GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION OFFICE

6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills 2153

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Phone: 9639 2488 **Email:** gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au

Website: www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER

I was pleased to have the opportunity to attend the Region Scout Jamborette at Cataract Scout Park on the Saturday of the long weekend. Even though it rained and rained and rained and then rained some more, it was pleasing to see the Scouts heading off to the activities with their wet weather gear on and laughing and smiling. Isn't it amazing that the youth members are the last to want to go home because of a little bit of rain.

It was with pleasure that I phoned Steve Fernie (Region Commissioner Hunter and Coastal) upon him being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Steve has been the Region Commissioner since August 2003 and he is the longest serving Region Commissioner. Steve has been a leader with Scouts NSW for 44 years, commencing his Scouting career in May 1973 at 1st Wallsend as Assistant Cub Scout Leader. He is currently a Board Director of Scouts NSW. Congratulations Steve from all in Greater Western Sydney Region.

For those who remember Elston Hynd, he has been appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to youth through executive training roles with Scouts, and to the banking and finance sector. Elston served with Scouts NSW for nearly 38 years. He started his leader career as an Assistant Scout Leader with 5th Wagga Wagga Scout Group in July 1979. From December 2007 to October 2012, Elston served as Deputy Chief Commissioner. For the past 5 years, Elston has been an Honorary Commissioner with Scouts NSW, whilst also holding national appointments. He is currently the National Commissioner (Adult Training and Development) Scouts Australia. Congratulations Elston from all your friends in GWS.

I will be sending out the Agenda for our Development Seminar to all the Group Leaders and Leaders in Charge which will be held at Bundilla on 30th July 2017. If you have any ideas on recruitment and retention of youth and leaders please let your GL or LIC, so they can bring these to the Seminar.

Don't forget to arrange your theatre party to Cumberland Gang Show in the July School Holidays. I have seen a few of the items and they look great. I have tickets to a number of performances.

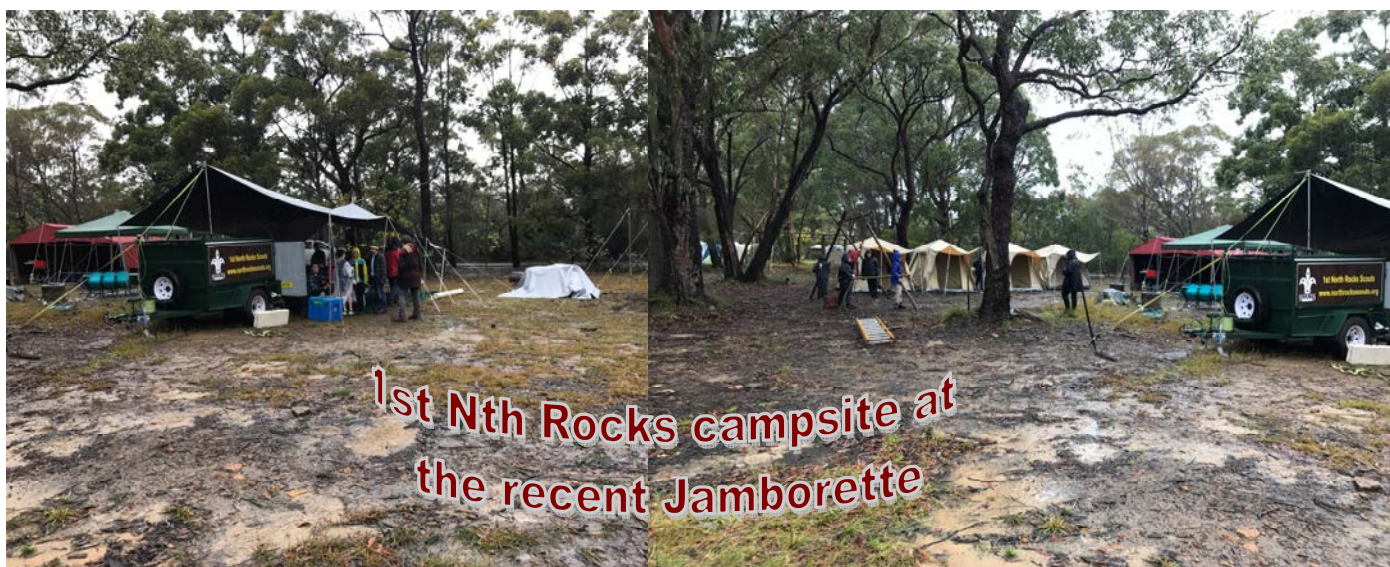
Thanks to David Stopps for deputising for me during my recent holidays.

Until next time.....carry on Scouting

Neville Henderson OAM JP

Region Commissioner

Email: rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au



First Aid course to be held at 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout hall.

Click on the link for more information

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

BUSHWALKING - TRISTAN FLORES

On May 27 & 28, we went for an overnight hike in the Heathcote National Park. The days were sunny but chilly overnight. The drop in temperature and shorter daylight hours are reminders that Winter conditions are almost here. It is very important to be prepared and have a plan for what happens when the light runs out if you have not reached your destination. It was great to hear some of the Scouts were on their first overnight hike. In their enthusiasm, our party made an early turn while on the Goanna Track. This took us on a short yet character building detour. I was pleased the Scouts made decision to push on through on the bushy track which turned out to be part of an old road, later to rejoin the Pipeline Trail closer to the dam. In these situations, you need to weigh up your options and decide which is the safest option (for all participants); sometimes this means backtracking, however if you're up for a challenge and it is safe to do so, why not "*persevere*". The participants enjoyed their "bush experience". We set up for the night 800m from our intended campsite and offered a night hike to the Woronora River. Sunday was a pleasant stroll up the Pipeline Trail and Mirang Road into the back of Heathcote, where we enjoyed afternoon tea.



Tristan Flores - GWSR Leader Bushwalking
Email: bushwalking@greaterwestscouts.com.au

CUB SCOUT REPORT

Plans for our fun **Palaver 'Survivor Bundilla' on July 29 at Bundilla Scout Camp** are shaping up well, thanks to your hard working Region Seeonee Team. Registrations will be on the EMS shortly and the closing date is **Friday, July 21**. We ask all Group Leaders and Leaders in Charge to encourage all of their Cub Scout Leaders and Youth Helpers to attend Palaver. We hope to see many new Leaders at this event - it will certainly help them to brush up on their outdoor skills. We also need many of our more experienced CSLs to come and join us and share their knowledge and skills with the rest of the participants.

Parramatta Ramble will be held on **September 17** for the Region. Full details and registration will be available on the EMS by mid July.

Sadly we must farewell **John Aquilina** as the Seeonee Leader for Hawkesbury District who is moving on to the Venturer Scout section. John will be greatly missed by us all and we thank him for all his hard work and dedication to both roles and wish him success and happiness in his new role.

I would like to welcome **Jim Abbott ACSL, 1st Grose Vale** to our Seeonee Team. Jim will continue on as an ACSL but take on the additional role and responsibilities of DCSL for Hawkesbury District. Please give him all your support by attending District Seeonee regularly and participating in District and Region events.

District Seeonees: Every month it is reported back to me that CSLs' attendance at their training meetings is becoming less frequent. I'm sure I do not need to remind all CSLs and ACSLs that it is part of your appointment to attend Seeonee every month. These meetings are the best way to keep in touch with the rest of the pack leaders in the district; to learn new skills and to share knowledge and skills; to provide feedback and to organise District events or combined activities. Leaders have to work together to create strong packs, support each other and help with recruitment and retention of both Leaders and Youth members.

For those packs fortunate enough to have more than one or two leaders - please do not think that it is ok for just one of you to attend Seeonee each month - it should be all of you every month. Of course, if you are sick or just cannot attend, it is common courtesy to send your apology to the DCSL or Seeonee Leader. If it is the CSL who cannot attend, they should ensure that their written Pack report is given by another leader from the group. I do hope to see an increase in attendance over the next month. Group Leaders and Scouters in Charge please check your Leaders' attendance at training meetings during your monthly Group Councils and please encourage all Leaders to attend regularly.

Overage Cub Scouts: We have 32 Cubs well over 11 years of age listed in Scout Link and I have no idea why. We do have a process in place for keeping Cubs past their 11th birthday in the Pack. Any issues or reasons for keeping Cubs back from advancement to Scouts must be raised at Group Council. Once the GL is aware and approves, the situation should be raised at District Seeonee. The DCSL will then relay this to the RCCS who will then seek approval from the SCCS and let the RCS know. I think I have been told about only two of the Cub Scouts that appear on the Scout Link report. Please follow this process to avoid any questions being raised.

There are also another 57 Cubs on the list who are within 3 months of being overage. Hopefully many of these Cubs are in the process of linking or have already moved up but have not been updated in Scout Link. Each DLCS has a copy of their District's list of over age Cub Scouts and will be checking with the CSLs at the next Seeonee.

Anne Thompson (Wontolla) RC Cub Scouts

Email: cubs@greaterwestscouts.com.au



Liam Spinks, Cub Scout - 1st St Marys
proudly receives his
Grey Wolf Award
from DLCS Melissa Harding.

Mother and former Girl Guide, Rachele Spinks said
Liam had shown "commitment and determination and
worked very hard to achieve his award".

1—2—3 Woof !

Congratulations to these Cub Scouts who have achieved their Grey Wolf Award

Alexander McKeon - 1st Rydalmere
 Sean Hodge - 2nd Castle Hill
 Melissa Brooke - 1st Kellyville
 Liam Spinks - 1st St Marys
 Edward Paul - 1st/2nd Blacktown
 Anson Liu - 1st Balcombe Heights
 Scott Romanis - WPHV
 Jack Miller - 1st Oakville
 Besufikad Ward - 1st Hazelbrook
 Angus McAulay - 1st Rydalmere

Ashleigh Speirs - 1st Ermington
 Benjamin Arrowsmith - 1st Grose Vale
 Alahna Dimmock - 1st Kellyville
 Max Klein - 1st Blaxland
 Adam Boxsell - 1st Kellyville
 Natasha Chandler - 1st Parramatta
 Alexander James - 1st Blaxland
 Zane Tonitto - 1st Glossodia
 Kayley Roles - 1st Parramatta



1 - 2 - 3 - WOOF!



JAMES CRAIG SLEEPOVER

As a sleepover crew member you can help with exciting tasks that were part of daily life aboard a Tall Ship in the 19th century such as setting a sail, swabbing the decks, heaving cargo, knots, navigation and learning the language of the sea.

Participants sleep in hammocks or in bunks below decks while the ship remains safely moored at Wharf 7 at Pyrmont. Up to 40 overnight guests can be accommodated.

Activities are led by our Youth Program Supervisor and *James Craig* volunteers, all of whom are familiar with the operation of the ship and have Working with Children Clearance. Risk assessments have been undertaken and are available on request.

A typical sleepover begins at 4.30pm and concludes at 9am the next day. Many groups combine a sleepover with a visit to the Australian National Maritime Museum or other local attractions.

Cost for participants = \$75/head, Cost for accompanying adults = starting from \$45/head. Prices include dinner, supper, breakfast and all activities. Special dietary needs can be accommodated. Minimum number of accompanying adults is 3. For groups over 20, four or more adults are required to accompany the participants.

All prices quoted include GST.
 Minimum numbers 20



Testimonials
 "Thank you for having the Girl Guides!
 The program was interesting, and the
 activities were very enjoyable.
 Overall, it was a brilliant experience for everyone!!"
 "The Leaders", Girl Guides

Sleep in a Hammock



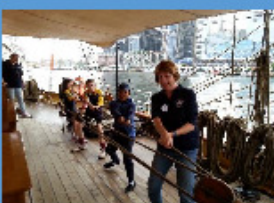
Learn the Ropes



Swab the Decks



Heave Cargo



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 Pyrmont, NSW 2009

www.shf.org.au
 info@shf.org.au
 Phone: 9298 3000

Dear Leaders

I would like to bring to your attention the great success we have had with Cubs and Scouts visiting the Tallship *James Craig* at the Sydney Heritage Fleet, Wharf 7, Darling Harbour with five groups staying on-board over consecutive weekends in late March and early April all with positive feedback from not only the cubs and scouts but also their leaders.

Not only will a visit, sleepover or sailing day on-board the *James Craig* give a taste of what life was like on a 19th Century Sailing Ship but it also assists with building confidence and assisting children to reach their full potential.

All activities are led by our qualified Youth Program Supervisor and *James Craig* volunteer crew; all of whom are familiar with the operation of the ship and have Working with Children Clearance. Risk assessments have been undertaken and are available on request for all our activities.

Kind regards, John Bartram
 Youth Program Coordinator
Sydney Heritage Fleet
 Mobile: 0401 108 764
 Email: youthprograms@shf.org.au
 Visit our website:
www.shf.org.au/youthprograms

VENTURER REPORT

May was a slightly quieter month but still plenty on!

The **Region Canoe Course** was finally completed after cancellation due to heavy weather, coinciding with the **Initiative Course** and the **Rover's Annual Formal Regressive Dinner**, all of which kept our Venturers busy. Venturers attended a **Youth Helper Course** at Bundilla; something like four Units attended an **Abseil Workshop** at Bowen Mountain and Yellow Rock and lots of Venturers were at the **Cumberland Gang Show rehearsal camp** at Pennant Hills. **Mt Solitary** was a bit of a theme this month with Venturers from 1st South Penrith and 1st Westmead undertaking this **challenging hike**.

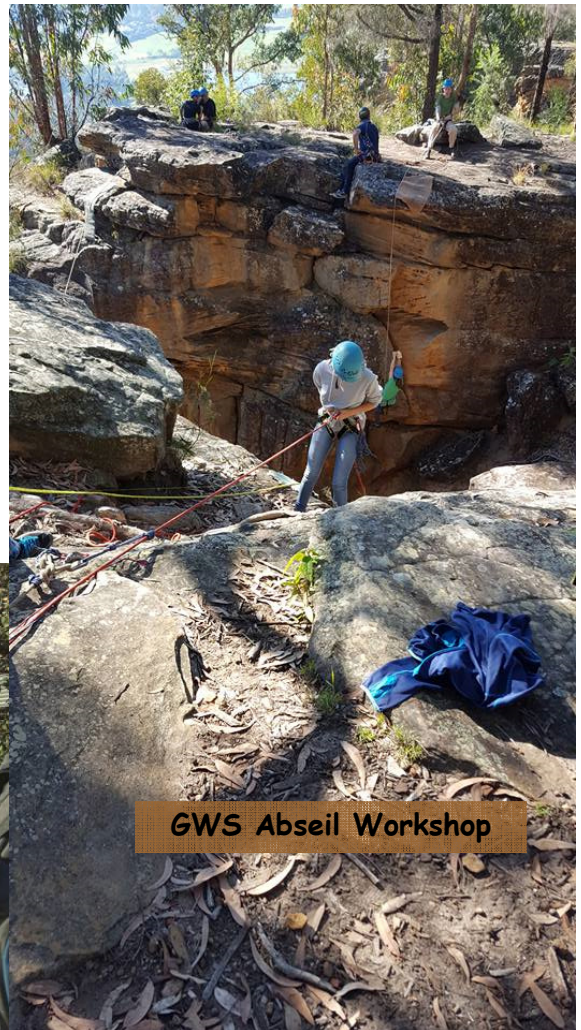
We have a number of Venturers registered to attend the **YOU program** being held in June at Cataract. This is the first part of a new youth leadership program that will be followed up with a **LEAD program** being run in Adelaide later in the year. Applicants for the LEAD program will be selected from youth attending the YOU program. The combined **YOU + LEAD program** is a new initiative for Scouts, Venturers and Rovers.

We have 195 Venturers registered to attend the **40th Greater Western Sydney Region Jamborette** at Cataract on the long weekend. The Venturers will be running activity bases and assisting the adventurous activities team. I'm really looking forward to the weekend, not least because the GWS Rovers will be running a night game for us. It's always a great camp and a good opportunity to practice a bit of camping in the cooler weather. Look out on the **Facebook page for 1st Glossodia's laser tag fund raiser**. They are going to Sweden next year and have organised an all-night event at their hall.

The **State Venturer Environment Camp** is still accepting registrations although it is filling up fast. Our own **Leadership, Environment and Unit Management Courses** are also open for registrations and I can see applications coming through quite steadily. I have also put up some information on Hunter & Coastal's multi-course in July.

Next month is Gang Show season, so keep an eye on the program for these performances including the special Venturer & Rover night. Finally, the activities team are running a stack of winter-time canyon and bushwalking activities.

Brian Nelson (Sparky) RC Venturer Scouts
Email: venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au



Cumberland Gang Show



**Whatever you do, don't miss out on seeing Cumberland Gang Show 2017
where we Live, Laugh and Smile.**

Featuring Scouts and Guides, this show has something for every age group.

With great comedy and spectacular music, Gang Show provides an opportunity for families and Scout Groups to enjoy together live entertainment. It's fast pace, rollicking laughs and toe-tapping songs make for wonderful entertainment – all put on by our young people. It is great to come along and support the cast as they show us what the self-expression elements of the award scheme can create.

Bookings have opened and this is a great activity for all sections.

For special deals for Scouting sections go to <https://gangshow.asn.au/2017/promotions/scout-guide-youth-offers> where you will find more information and also an E1 all ready prepared for you to hand out which you can also edit. Why not book for a Group Activity. To book go to: www.riversideparramatta.com.au

SPECIAL PROMOTIONS

Free show bag deals for all youth members on registration (show bags will include a gift from Anaconda).

Register your group and number of members at www.gangshow.asn.au by June 17th and bring your confirmation email to the souvenir stand to collect your show bags.

Check our website for show dates and times.

VENTURERS AND ROVERS

Friday 7th July dinner and show deal.

WORKSHOPS AND VISITS

Workshops and visits to Groups are also available in October and November. Bookings open in September.

Why not ask some of the Gang to talk to your youth members and run a couple of games.

To book email: workshops@gangshow.asn.au

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REGION ACTIVITIES REPORT

Water activities seem to be the flavour of the month, as we are trying to get in as much as possible, before the cooler months of winter sets in.

Early May we ran a very successful canoe weekend up at Penrith, on the Nepean River at Tench Park. Saturday we covered all the “*what you are supposed to learn stuff*” including self-rescues, T rescues and that dreaded “J” Stroke, which is often a challenge, until you actually master it! Sunday was an early start, (so a couple of commissioners, including yours truly, could get back to Bundilla for the Region ARP meeting); we headed upstream past the Narrows and into Glenbrook Gorge for a bit of a journey where we could practise our newly learnt skills. I have often said we are so lucky to have some such incredible places we can explore, and so close by. Thank you to Tracey Hansford who organised the day.



There is nothing better than an early morning paddle on a day of just stunning weather.

While still on paddling, we managed to squeeze in our last overnight trip before (just) the cold weather set in. Heading off from Wisemans Ferry, we paddled upstream, and then up into Webbs Creek, where we paddled up to the tidal limits. There we set up a bush camp for the night, on a property.

The intention was to do a night paddle as well, but when the scouts attending had built a nice warm campfire; and with the temperature hovering around the single figures; and the thought of getting wet; ...*let's just say maybe next time..!* Thank you also to Bryan Hall who came along to support me on the trip.





***Another one of those early morning shots on the water at Wisemans Ferry.
Photos - Mark Fell***



Our abseiling team were out and about running a very successful abseiling workshop. The Saturday was spent at Bowen Mountain, where the participants could practise their skills, before heading to Yellow Rock on the Sunday for some more challenging rock faces to play on. So whether it is abseiling to go down, or a caving ladder to go up! The choice is yours! I think I prefer the abseiling bit.

Big thank you to Stuart Cowen and his team for another successful weekend of rock stuff.

Photos Stuart Cowen



All gearing up now for the Jamborette at Cataract in conjunction with South Met.

Don't forget we have Gang Show coming up in the July School Holidays. Kicks off on Friday night 7 July. Something quite different this year as we are running a mid-week matinee performance on Wednesday 12 July. Tickets are selling fast so you need to be quick to get the best seats.

For further details on this, or anything to do with the Region Activities you can email me at <activities@greaterwestscouts.com.au>

Time to get out again and find a new adventure, or three...!

Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities
Stage Manager CGS
Email: activities@greaterwestscouts.com.au

Venturer Scouts complete the Gurkha Challenge

Julie Overton AJSL - 1st Greystanes Scout Group

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/1stGreystanesScoutGroup>

Twenty four Venturer Scouts from 7 Venturer Units from across Greater Western Sydney Region Scouts joined scores of Sydney high school students on Sunday May 21, for a unique show of support for some of Australia's most courageous and loyal allies, the Gurkhas, at St Joseph's College in Hunters Hill.

The Venturer Scouts and Leaders from 1st Westmead, 1st Glossodia, 1st Greystanes, 1st Blaxland, 1st South Penrith, 1st Hornsby Heights, 1st North Rocks and 1st Carlingford, joined Year 12 students from Sydney schools to form teams of twelve. Each of the teams worked with elite troops from the Royal Gurkha Rifles and the Australian Army on a series of challenges designed to develop their leadership and team skills.

It was an extra special opportunity for nine of the Venturers from 1st Westmead Venturer Scout Unit who will be trekking to Base Camp Everest, Nepal in November this year. Scouts Australia International Commissioner, Aaron Wardle, who will be trekking with the Venturer Scouts said "The Gurkha challenge reinforces the importance of teamwork in achieving success and adds to the group's preparation for their inspiring journey."

This event was part of a broader effort by the charity, Gurkhas Australia, to raise funds to help rebuild Gurkha veterans' homes destroyed in the 2015 earthquakes in Nepal. The Charity's Director, Chris Hartley, says Gurkhas have stood beside Australian soldiers in almost every conflict since Gallipoli. "They have a reputation for courage, warmth and loyalty that is almost unrivalled and now it is our turn to help them and their families in their time of need," he said.

The Gurkha Challenge was developed and facilitated by Unilever's Leadership and Organisational Development team and the Australian Army, with support from other organisations, including Land Rover Australia. The Venturer Scouts and students were placed in mixed teams, each with a member of the Australian Army and the Royal Gurkha Rifles. The challenges included teams towing brand new Land Rovers and building a temporary house under time pressure.

The Gurkha Challenge for youth teams was followed by a similar Corporate Challenge the following day which has helped raise significant funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust, which is managing the rebuilding work. Dr Hartley said he's been deeply touched by the level of support from across business and government. Both events were hosted by St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill. "Gurkhas are remarkable men and it is our privilege to help these 'brothers in arms', their families and communities in their time of need," said St Joseph's College Headmaster, Ross Tarlinton.

The devastation caused by the earthquakes resulted in the deaths of many Gurkha veterans and widows; water projects were impacted; hundreds of schools were devastated and 1700 veterans' homes were damaged or destroyed.

"I would like to congratulate the Venturer Scouts who took up the challenge and the Scout volunteers who helped on the day." said Dr Hartley.

For further information contact:

Dr Chris Hartley

Mobile: 0490 774 244

Email: chris@gurkhasaustralia.org





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
- 2 Breakfasts and 1 Dinner
- All transport from Sydney/Canberra including mountain transfers
- National park entry fees



*Plus Gear hire and lift tickets

THAT'S THE SAME PRICE AS LAST YEAR!

Places are limited so book your seat NOW!

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THE BULLETIN

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

Email : bulletin@greaterwestscouts.com.au