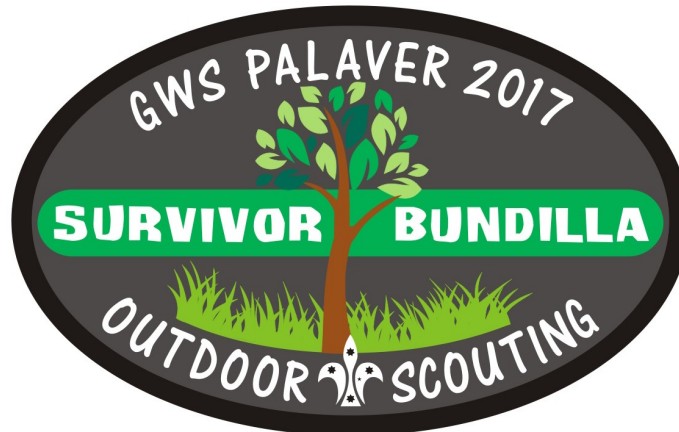




The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 455 - July 2017



REGION PALAVER

Saturday July 29, 2017

9am to 4pm @ Bundilla Scout Camp

All Cub Scout Leaders and Youth Helpers working with Cub Packs are kindly invited to attend this fun, training day.

The focus will be on outdoor Scouting, so join us to learn new skills or share your knowledge and skills with others as you work in a team.

Registrations now open on the EMS

<https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/77>

E1 available for download - please submit to Region Office with payment once you have completed the online registration. \$25 per person

Closing Date: 21st July, 2017

*It is highly recommended that the E-learning Module on **Navigation** be completed before the event (optional).*

Please bring a compass with you if possible (we will have spares).

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 like to be able to start my reports with some good news and this month I have had the pleasure to send letters of congratulations to three Venturers who have achieved their Queen's Scout Award. A big **Bravo** to Bryn Catlin and Damon Love from 1st Erskine Park and Andrew MacCormick from 1st Glossodia. Thanks to the Leaders, Unit and the recipients Parents who have all helped the three along the way to complete this prestigious award.

On Monday 10 July at **5.30am** we had a visit to Bundilla Scout Camp from the Channel 7 Sunrise Weather Team and over 60 youth members and 20 Leaders and Adults attended to give a showcase for Scouting to a national audience. We have to thank David and Tracey Stopps (who took up the challenge and ran with the organisation of the event - even though we only had a few days' notice) and their children, Brian Roberts (Hills District Advisor) and Jordan Croese (1st Dural) (who assisted on the Sunday with the setup), Steve Munro (Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship) and Rex Willard (1st Toongabbie Scout Group) who helped with feeding the people who attended. A huge **BRAVO** to these members.

I have attended a number of performances of Cumberland Gang Show and can say to anyone who did not see the show - that you have missed a great experience. Many of our Region Team have been involved once again.

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. To help groups achieve this we are holding a Group Leader/LIC Development Seminar on July 30, to get the Groups' ideas on how we can achieve our targets. Registration is available on our Event Management System.

With Gavan Hall's move to the Blue Mountains I have appointed Terry Brooke to the position of District Commissioner Hills District and thank Gavan for his past service to the Hills. To keep Gavan's experience in the movement I have appointed him to the role of District Advisor Blue Mountains assisting Acting DC Tony Dent with special projects.

Keep an eye on our website greaterwestscouts.com.au as the Adult Recognition Awards will be published on or around the 1st August. Please congratulate any of the recipients known to you.

That's about all for now... Until next time carry on Scouting.

Neville Henderson OAM

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>

Key missing link of Parramatta walking and cycling path now open

Cyclists and pedestrians can now travel on a high-quality, river front path from Parramatta Park to Sydney Olympic Park following the official opening of the Subiaco Creek link. It will now be possible to walk and cycle away from traffic for almost 20km on a path network between Parramatta Park and Sydney Olympic Park via Parramatta CBD and the Western Sydney University (WSU) campus in Rydalmere.

The cycleway sections that have recently been completed include:

- Shepherd's Wharf at the end of Park Road, Rydalmere
- Park Road to Pike Street Rydalmere (Part A)
- Pike Street to Subiaco Creek, Rydalmere (Part B)
- Baludarri Wetlands Boardwalk, Rangihou Reserve Parramatta to James Ruse Drive, through to the heritage listed wetlands and connecting to WSU
- The Lennox Bridge Portals

BUSHWALKING - TRISTAN FLORES

On the first weekend of the school holiday, we spent an enjoyable two days exploring some of the Brisbane Water National Park near the suburbs of Koolewong and Kariong on the Central Coast. Well done to the Scouts for their effort to locate the Kariong Hieroglyphs (Gosford Glyphs). Great teamwork guys. It was a pleasure to accompany you.

We needed to detour around a private road not indicated on the topographic map. This involved an additional three km loop to the other side through public access. The detour added a very steep “*cardio pumping*” ascent on a rough firetrail to the radio tower above Woy Woy. I was impressed with the Scouts positive approach to the obstacle. It was a good lesson as sometimes not all details appear on maps. You need to be ready to adapt and have a back up plan.

We could feel the temperature drop as the light faded and set up camp just on sunset which was a new experience for some of the younger Scouts. The next day we visited the site of the mysterious Egyptian carvings.

If you are planning a hike in the cooler months please prepare for worst case conditions. Conditions can change quickly and bushwalk leaders need to be proactive in order to effectivity support their participants. Check participants have protective clothing, effective shelter and nutritious food supply. Identify refuge points on your route which can be used to shelter from exposure.

Tristan Flores - GWSR Leader Bushwalking

Email: bushwalking@greaterwestscouts.com.au



CUB SCOUT REPORT

Registrations are slowly coming in for our fun **Palaver on July 29 at Bundilla Scout Camp** but we would like to see many more - it would be great to have at least one representative from each Cub Pack - the more the merrier! We ask that every one who has registered to bring a compass with them and we also recommend that every participant completes the E-learning module on **Navigation**. If you miss the closing date please contact me for a late application—don't miss out on this fun day.

Thank you to everyone who responded to my article on '**over-aged Cub Scouts**'. The numbers have reduced a little and it is good to know the reason why some Cubs are still with the Pack. Please keep your GL, SL DLCS/ Seeonee Leader informed if any cubs need to remain in the pack past 11 years of age.

Sadly **Tricia Shaw**, the State Commissioner for Cubs resigned officially last Saturday, but our RC Neville Henderson offered her a position as Honorary Commissioner in GWSR and Tricia has accepted the role. The new SCCS is Wendy Warner who lives in Guyra. This means that I can no longer drive over to Greystanes to collect a **Grey Wolf Award** at short notice! **Applications** for the award will have to come in via your Seeonees well before the Cub's 11th Birthday, so that I can post off the applications and receive them back in the mail - could take around two weeks or more, so please do not set a presentation date before I have the award, as has happened in the past.

Sincere apologies to Cub Scout **Alexander James** who was listed as a member of 1st Kellyville in the June Bulletin when in fact Alex is a member of 1st Blaxland!

Cumberland Gang Show is over for another year. Congratulations to Rob Lang and his Production Team, Cast and Backstage Crew on a really fabulous production. It was great talking to the many CSLs and their Cubs who came to see the show and for those Leaders who chose not to support the show - you missed out on something very special. I do hope you will consider bringing your Cubs to next year's show. Sincere Congratulations to **Geoff Henderson** who was awarded the coveted **Rodney Award** for Outstanding Achievement - certainly well deserved and hard earned - I know it means a great deal to him and he will treasure it.

I hope you have set the date in your diary for the **Parramatta Ramble, Sunday 17th September**. No further information is available at this time, but it will be on the EMS by the end of this month.

The next **Cub Scout Leadership Course** will be held at Bundilla on **August 26**. Applications close on **August 16**. If any CSL would like to help on the day - please talk to your DLCS/Seeonee Leader.

Anne Thompson (Wontolla) RC Cub Scouts

Email: cubs@greaterwestscouts.com.au

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

Sam Crofts - 1st Dural
Hunter McGhie - 1st Dural
Alexis Taylor - 1st Dural
Oliver Cooper - 1st Carlingford
Martin Drayton - 1st Grose Vale
Josh Spillane - 1st Glossodia
Lucas Krebs - 1st Hawkesbury

1- 2 - 3 - WOOF!





Cirque du Scout Wants YOU!



Did you know that juggling improves focus and concentration for study? It is true! Although they admit to a lack of scientific data supporting their observations; several teachers and administrators recently told Education World that they have seen students' schoolwork improve after the kids learned to juggle. Improvements in concentration, eye-hand coordination, fine motor skills, reading, and behaviour are just some of the benefits of juggling cited by educators.

Cirque du Scout is sending an **open invitation** to all Scouts over fourteen, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders to attend one of our regular meetings and pick up a trick or two! Cirque du Scout is an Activity Team that specialises in teaching Scouts responsible risk taking through everybody's favourite fun time activity - Circus Skills! The Cirque du Scout members have a wide range of skill sets; from those aspiring to become professional performers to those who are learning to juggle for the first time! All you need is a can-do attitude!

Cirque du Scout training sessions are held regularly; every **second Tuesday** throughout the year in the Brownsea Hut at **Bundilla Scout Camp** located at the intersection of Reillys Road and Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills. Sessions run from **7:00pm to 9:30pm** and cost **\$5** to attend - however your first session is on us! Each session has a number of workshops including **poi spinning, diabolo, juggling, whip cracking, staff, performance, clowning, acro-balance and tumbling**. Attending Cirque du Scout sessions is not only fun, but also a great way for members of all sections to work towards personal goals and section specific badgework.

If you are interested in coming along please contact us via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CirqueDuScout/> to make sure that we are meeting in the hall that night and not sneaking away on an interesting field trip! Circus Dates can be found pinned at the top of the Cirque du Scout Facebook Page.

We hope to see many new faces in the coming months!

The Cirque du Scout Team



SCOUT REPORT

Jamborette is now done and dusted for another year. What a weekend it was!! I think we need to order a new badge called I Survived Jamborette 2017!!! Torrential rain did not dampen the scouts' spirits! I must say I was very impressed with everyone. Morale was high and the youth seemed to be having an amazing time. I hope they all had fun meeting new people from South Met Region as well. I know they enjoyed our bases.

I would like to thank Robin Garrett for his guidance and help throughout the event. Although I believe he forgot to put the cancellation in for the rain.....I would also like to thank Steve Wallace for his awesome admin skills over the weekend; Ray Shepard for catering for HQ – the food was delicious! Col Nic for all his help getting the printing organised; Clinton Stewart for organising the bases; Mark Fell and his team for the Adventurous bases; Tony Dent and the 1st Aid team – a relatively quiet weekend for them; the Venturers – we couldn't do it without you guys and the Rovers – again an amazing job and nothing was too much trouble. Lastly but not least a special mention must go to Gavan Hall for being our photographer - but not only that I believe it was Gavan's 40th Jamborette!! An incredible milestone. So thank you to everyone. B-R-A-V-O-O-O!!

I had the pleasure of presenting two Australian Scout Medallions over the Jamborette. These were awarded to Mackenzie Harris of 2nd Baulkham Hills and Lachlan Diego of 2nd Castle Hill. Congratulations on an outstanding achievement. I also attended the ASM presentation of Teale Simmons, 1st Oakville on 23rd June. B-R-A-V-O-O-O!!!

We have the Australian Scout Medallion Citation Presentation coming up in August at Hornsby RSL, when these Scouts and others will receive their citations from Neville Tomkins.

We also have State Rally coming up at Glenfield Scout Activity Centre - so if you haven't registered yet you need to do it fast! This is a great opportunity for new scouts to be introduced to the patrol system and a great way for a scout to achieve a Patrol Activity badge. There will also be other badges you will work towards throughout the weekend. There will be late night disco's, inflatable obstacle courses, a movie to remember and that's just the night time activities! Don't forget the daytime challenges of testing your patrol and challenging your passions. Can you be the Number 1 Patrol or Patrol Leader in NSW?

Did you see us on Sunrise on Monday 10th July? We had Sam Mac visit Bundilla for the morning. It was a very chilly 6 degrees but thank you to those scouts and leaders who showed up. It was an amazing opportunity for national promotion and I think we pulled it off with style. I would like to thank two leaders in particular who helped me set up all the Scouting items. Brian Roberts (Kimba) and Jordan Croese (Smokey) - thank you for your time, equipment and effort!! It would not have been such a success without you!!

NEWS

There are new guidelines on Patrol Tent for the ASM and Adventurer Cord. Basically this will mean the Troop Council will be 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!! Please keep in contact with your DSL and RC Scouts with regards to minor changes in the system. Also while the changes are being made, the final approval still needs to come through Region.

Tracey Stopps (Wiangi) RC Scouts

Email: scouts@greaterwestscouts.com.au



Lachlan Diego and Mackenzie Harris
receive their
Australian Scout Medallions at the
40th GWS Region Jamborette



Time to Be Creative



Scouts in Action Month 2017

Scouts in Action Month started in 2010 when it was originally called *Scouts in Action Week*. Scouts in Action was created by Queensland Group Leader, John Parr. John won a Vodafone Foundation, World of Difference Award and committed twelve months living his dream to teach 50,000 young people first aid skills. To achieve this aim John approached Scouts Australia with an idea to develop programs for Leaders so that they could have all the resources needed to run first aid programs across all Sections of Scouting.

Scouts Australia came on board and helped promote Scouts in Action and in the first year (2010) Scouts in Action Week started. The theme for the first year was Scouts in Action - First Aid and over 33,000 youth members and Leaders participated in one of the programs including the ADAPT (A Drug and Alcohol Program for Teenagers) program which was specifically designed for Venturer Scouts, Rovers and Leaders and presented by them.

Scouts in Action is designed to provide Leaders with themed program resources that are held on one web site and accessible 24/7, 365 days of the year. Busy Leaders sometimes need to be able to grab a Program that will be based around their sections award scheme and Scouts in Action does just that!

In 2011 Scouts in Action was moved to the last full week of August and then in 2014 it was changed from Scouts in Action Week to Scouts in Action Month and takes place in August each year with the 1st August (World Scout Day) being the official launch day although anyone can register anytime before, during and after August.

Since Scouts in Action started in 2010, over 180,205 Leaders and Youth from Australia and overseas have participated in the programs. Themes are generally based on the wishes of Leaders, after consultation, so that Scouts in Action stays relevant to their needs and to the needs of the youth members under their care.

Scouts in Action is put together annually by **just one person** - just think what could be achieved if everyone came on board and contributed to its success!

I trust you will once again enjoy the offerings of programs for **Scouts in Action Month 2017, Time to be Creative**.

John Parr GL

Gumdale Scout Group

Visit <http://www.scoutsinactionmonth.com/>

Register your group and order your badges for just \$3 each.



I would like to congratulate Bryn Catlin and Damon Love from 1st Erskine Park, Andrew McCormick from 1st Glossodia and Eva Sherwin-Cole, Cameron Letta and Cooper Vanderjagt from 1st South Penrith on completing their Queen's Scout Awards.



Last month several GWSR Venturers attended a new leadership program run by the NSW Branch at Cataract Scout Park. The YOU component 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.

A group of GWSR Venturers fielded a team in the Gurkha Challenge at "Joeys" at Hunters Hill. They 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. The event helped raise funds to help rebuild Gurkha veterans' homes destroyed in the 2015 earthquakes in Nepal.

Around 200 Venturers attended the 40th Greater Western Sydney Region Jamborette at Cataract on the long weekend. Venturers are a key component of the weekend, running most of the activity bases for the Scouts. Congratulations to 1st Ermington and 1st Winston Hills who combined again to win the best Venturer base "Confuse and Defuse". A highlight for the Venturers was a wide game run by the Region Rover Council on the Saturday night.

On the same weekend, a group of Venturers from 1st Westmead were preparing for their trip to Everest Base Camp by undertaking the iconic K2K (Kanangra to Katoomba) hike.

Brian Nelson (Sparky) RC Venturer Scouts

Email: venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au

AGOONOREE "ON THE MOVE"

Friday 22nd to Monday 25th September 2017

Mt Keira Scout Camp

Open to all Scout and Guide members and their family and friends

Joeys can attend if with a parent or guardian;
Cubs can attend if with a parent, guardian or leader

Includes...

Saturday 23rd September Visitors' Day
Sunday 24 September Off-Site Day to Illawarra Live Steamers
and Wollongong Science Museum & Planetarium
(these can be attended as stand-alone events)

Full time cost: \$120 Youth \$100 Adult helpers

E1 forms for both events should be available, including on the Scouts NSW website.

Please direct all enquiries to...

Mark Burfield, State Commissioner (Special Needs)

Email: markburfield@gmail.com Mobile: 0425 236 617

REGION ACTIVITIES REPORT

This month kicked off with our annual Region Jamborette. Quite different this year as we joined up with South Met, as part of their "Gathering," down at Cataract. While rather a wet start, it turned out to be a really nice weekend. The Activities Team was kept busy as per usual. John Leahy and Karl Humphreys were well occupied on the Science base, which is always interesting. The onsite Climbing wall was also very popular. I would like to especially thank Warren Kaltenbacher, who set up and looked after the onsite flying fox, which is always a great drawcard. With big numbers coming through - we set it up with a "return line" meaning we were down to just over a minute per participant. I must also pass on a huge thank you to all the Venturers who helped out on both the fox and the wall. And of course the Region Abseiling Instructors and Guides, who ensured we all remained nice and safe. A great effort by all involved.

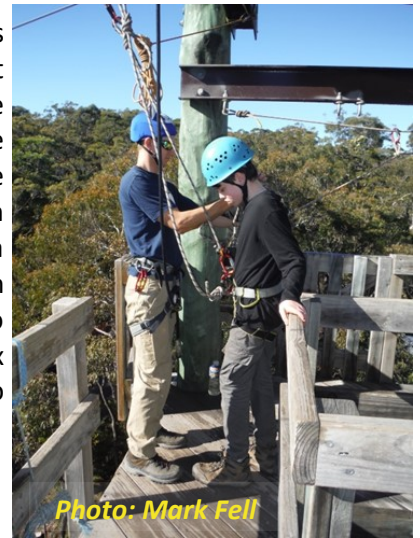


Photo: Mark Fell



Photo: Anthony Macarthur

Our Abseiling Team was jumping off cliffs again with a very enjoyable day up at West Pennant Hills. Thank you to David (Macca) McKinley and the team who ran the day. As part of the workshop we always run a theory night at Bundilla a few days prior. This means we can get out on the day and basically get straight into the fun stuff, knowing the participants have already been taught some of the basics, along with safety requirements.

Not to be out done our Canyoning Team where back out doing their stuff again. Under the watchful eye of Ross Smith, our Yabbies headed out onto the Newnes Plateau, for a great day of checking out and exploring both Zorro Canyon and Splendid View Canyon. Such a diverse range of landscapes to enjoy.

Each year around this time I hang up Blue Scarf and put on my Red Scarf. No I am not starting a new movement. **It's Gang Show season!** Gang Show is not just the eight shows that we perform at the Riverside Theatre in Parramatta. Gang Show for the cast, starts back in February; and each week they meet as any Scout Group would - with their own Patrols, and Patrol Leaders. As members of that patrol, each person has the opportunity to learn some really amazing skills. They learn about working as a team; to push themselves beyond what they think they can do. They learn that when everyone collectively works really hard together to a common goal, the results are truly amazing. It is a wonderful experience. I have been involved with Gang Show for quite a few years now, and even as an adult, (who cannot sing, and certainly cannot dance) I have learnt so much. Not just in the technical aspects of putting on a fairly major theatre production; but the satisfaction of being just a small part in what is affectionately known as the Gang!

Must go! The cue has been called, the curtain is about to open.

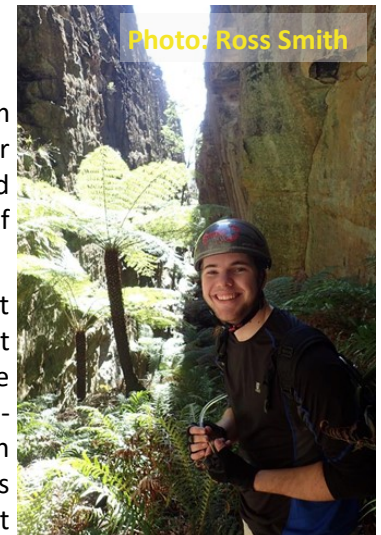


Photo: Ross Smith



Behind all the glitz and glamour, there is a lot of very hard work! Photo: Mark Fell

Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities
Stage Manager CGS

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