



The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 460 - December 2017



Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year

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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FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER

I had the privilege to attend a farewell dinner at Winston Hills for Anne Thompson who has decided to step down from her current role at the end of December. It was great to see 22 other leaders enjoy Anne's company and listen to some nice remarks about Anne's scouting career. She of course will still be around in a new role as an Honorary Commissioner.

The list of people who have qualified by years of service for Adult Recognition Awards has been sent to the Group Leaders and the Region Team. Please lodge your nominations by email to me by close of business on **25th January 2018** as they need to be vetted and approved by me prior to submission to State Office. Please note they can't be accepted after that time due to the short lead time to be submitted to the State Awards Committee. If you are in doubt on what the requirements are please do not hesitate to send me an email and I will respond (email: rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au)

I was a very proud grandfather at the presentation of a Grey Wolf Award to my granddaughter Laura. It was great to see the large number of Cubs and Scouts who took part in the presentation. A special thanks to Susan Templeman, the Federal member for Macquarie, who attended on the night.

At Kurrajong I offered Susan Templeman the opportunity to become a Region Patron and she indicated that she would be delighted to accept this position. She has been given great support to Scouts since her election to Federal Parliament. Welcome aboard Susan.

Some occasions are special and one of these was on a recent visit to 1st Carlingford Group where I presented the Silver Emu to Leonie Plummer and the Meritorious Service Award to Noriko Burrows. Leonie was also presented with a plaque to recognize 25 years of service to the group as the Joey Scout Leader. This was followed by a Grey Wolf presentation to Ramez Razi and the Australian Scout Medallion to his brother Zaki. It was a big night for the Razi family and I congratulated them on receiving these prestigious awards.

This year I seem to have signed more letters of congratulations to Venturers who have completed their Queen's Scout Awards. The latest to be congratulated is Marni Collier of 1st Kellyville Venturer Unit and I thank her parents, the leaders and the members of the unit who assisted and encouraged Marni on her journey.

I had the pleasure of attending the auditions for the 2018 season of Cumberland Gang Show and I can report we have some very talented young people in our scouting ranks.

I suppose most groups will be getting ready for Christmas close down and I would remind everyone that the Australian Jamboree is in South Australia in January 2019 so start planning your fundraising now. Also Group books should be ready for audit for the 2018 ARP.

May I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year on behalf of my wife and myself, the Region Team and Region Executive, and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Until next time...Carry on Scouting

Neville Henderson OAM

Region Commissioner

Email: rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au



**RC Neville Henderson
congratulates Zaki Razi on his
Australian Scout
Medallion presentation.**

BRAVO!



CUB SCOUT REPORT

2018 is almost over, and what a busy year it has been. This is my final report as RCCS and I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the many people who have helped and supported me during my Scouting journey. The journey does not end here, just a new chapter starts.

Thank you to Jeff Hook, my appointed PLA, who has been and continues to be a brilliant teacher, mentor, supporter and family friend. His brilliant programming ideas have rescued me on many occasions!

Thank you to Val Hannan, Betty Truscott, Jan Carter, Jan Playford, Shirley Robinson, Tricia Shaw, Col Nicholas, Peter Stieme, Peter and Lesley Tamsett, Carol Cope, Charlie Yendle, Geoff McGrath, Peter Nickl, Ron Brown, Neville Henderson - all true Scouts in every sense of the word; wonderful role models who taught me the origin and value of Scouting traditions and expected behaviour and supported me along the path from a very green trainee CSL, all the way up to Region Commissioner Cub Scouts!

Thank you to my amazing Region Seonee Team (currently) Gabie Thompson, Melissa Harding, Jeff Hook, Michelle Mclean, Jim Abbott and Melissa McAulay who work hard to keep the districts ticking over and ensure region and state events are well supported and successful. A special thanks to Ian Lutz who has been a great supporter of the region team and events and who created our wonderful gateway to Avalon at Cuboree 2017.

Thank you to all the wonderful Cub Scout Leaders I have met and worked with during the past 23 years. You are the backbone of Scouting for our Cubs - volunteering your precious time to provide excellent and varied Programmes, foster leadership and encourage the development of the youth members in your care.

Thank you to my fellow Region and District Commissioners. It has been a privilege to serve with you. We may not have always seen eye to eye, but the debates have been interesting. Keep up your great work.

Thank you to my dear family, I could not have done half the things I have without their love and support: My husband Paul, who supported my decision to become a CSL and has always been there for me as tutor (being a old Scout himself), advisor, cook and handyman! My three sons - Chris, Matt and Andy - all accomplished Scouts - who attempted to improve my knotting and bushcraft skills and were always available to help with many of my projects. My wonderfully talented daughter-in-law Meagan who is always willing to lend a hand with whatever needs to be done, despite being a very busy teacher, wife and mother!



Finally I wish to thank Gabie Thompson, my successor as RCCS, for the wonderful surprise dinner she organised for me. It was meant to be just our Seonee Christmas outing but turned out to be so much more. Thank you to everyone who attended; thank you for the beautiful flowers and yummy chocolates and the lovely words both spoken and recorded in cards - I shall treasure them.

Best wishes to Gabie Thompson - I hope you enjoy the role as much as I have.

Thank you for allowing me to indulge myself in this final report and I am very sorry if I have missed anyone - there have been so many special people I have met and worked with over the years.

Best wishes to you and your families for the festive season. Keep safe and return next year to do it all over again!

Anne Thompson (Wontolla) RC Cub Scouts
Email: cubs@greaterwestscouts.com.au



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

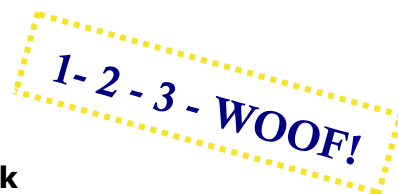
Ramez Razi - 1st Carlingford

Ariana Dean - 2nd Northmead

Thomas Wilson - 2nd Kings Langley

Salina Kayani - 1st Erskine Park

Dean Vassallo - 1st Oakville



SCOUT REPORT

I would like to thank all the Leaders in GWSR for a job well done and for all your support this year. Scouts would not run and my job would be a lot harder without you!

Well things are slowing down this month with the welcome end of year activities. Everyone by now will need a rest to rejuvenate for the new year. I look forward to the challenges of the year to come. What a year it will be!! We have Shakedown being booked for the AJ2019. If you want Bundilla you need to book fast! Please do so ASAP! Don't forget to **register now for AJ2019** at www.aj2019.com.au Prices are set below. We are starting to organise troops so if you are considering going please register now.

As you may or may not know GWSR Scouts has a few openings for District Leaders.

I am opening Expressions of Interest for positions of DSL or Mindari Leader (preferable DSL) in the following Districts: **Blacktown Hills Penrith Hawksbury Blue Mountains**

The Mindari leaders filling in the current roles are welcome to express their interest in the current position or in the DSL role (preferably). Remember Region pays the fees for you as DSLs but you will be required to undertake the CoAL training if you are selected.

As a DSL you will be required to:

Organise district camps, leadership courses, run district Mindari and attend Region Mindari. You will also be required to help with organising bases at the Jamborette; help out on other events such as Scout Hike, State Rally etc. when you can and assist running the DSYC with the help of region.

Expressions of Interest will close **31st December 2017**. Please forward them to me by this date at rcscoutsgwsr1@gmail.com or scouts@greaterwestscouts.com.au

The ASM presentation was held for Zaki Razi of 1st Carlingford Scout Troop this month – unfortunately I was unable to attend but *Batman*, Robin Garrett did in my place and I believe it was a wonderful night. BRAVO-O-O Zaki! A wonderful achievement!

We have set the date for our **Basic Scouting Camp**. It will be 18th - 20th May 2018. **Registrations** will open on **February 1, 2018 and close on April 20, 2018**. We will need new scouts, linking cubs, Scouts and leaders to register. The cost is \$10 per person not including catering. Scouts wanting to register as activity leaders will require Scout Leader approval.

AJ2019 applications are open. The Jamboree will be held at The Bend Motor Sport Park in Tailem Bend. Districts have started holding their information sessions and I am available to attend these if anyone requires.

- Cost: Scouts \$1855 Leaders, Rovers Venturers & Adult Helpers \$1,390
- Dates: January 4 -14; Scouts are to arrive on the 4th of January and will depart on the 13th of January
- Super Saturday (Visitors day) will be on January 12th
- Scout age range – must be under 15 years as at January 4, 2019
- Applications opened from October 1 2017 via special “on line” web site

The Youth Program is still being developed , but bicycle activities, cart racing and land yachting will feature on the V8 car racing circuit, with water activities on the nearby lakes, patrol activities at the Woodhouse Activity Centre and a wide game in the city of Adelaide.

We still have the **portable chargers** from Jamborette for sale. **\$10 per item** but a discount will apply if you want more. Please contact me regarding the bulk orders.

Last but certainly not least I would like to thank Anne Thompson RC Cub Scouts for all her support and friendship over the years. Thank you for the advice and you will be sorely missed by more than just me. I hope you enjoy your retirement and visit often as you are always welcome. BRAVO-O-O!!!!

Merry Christmas to all our Scouts and Leaders. Have a safe, enjoyable holiday! I look forward to seeing you all next year fully refreshed and ready to tackle another action packed year!

Tracey Stopps (Wiangi) RC Scouts
Email: scouts@greaterwestscouts.com.au





**A big night for 1st Carlingford
and the Razi Family.**

**Zaki Razi was presented with
his Australian Scout Medallion
and younger brother
Ramez Razi
received his Grey Wolf Award.**

**BRAVO
&
1-2-3 WOOF**



**It was a very special occasion
for
Laura Henderson
1st Grose Vale**

**Not only did she receive her
Grey Wolf Award but she was
invested into Scouts and
received a special Certificate of
Congratulations from
Susan Templeman, the Federal
member for Macquarie**

1, 2, 3 Woof

BRAVO

VENTURER REPORT

I would like to congratulate **Marni Collier from 1st Kellyville** on completing her Queen's Scout Award. That makes 14 for the year, with at least another 7 that are almost ready for interview with their District Commissioner. Congratulations on a very successful year.

A highly successful Waratah was held at locations ranging from Windsor, Sydney CBD, Winston Hills and Parramatta. **The Tah Vinci Code** stretched us all physically, intellectually and technologically. I reported on the winners of the event last month, but I wanted to acknowledge the work of the Fellowship members, leaders and Rovers who helped us run the events this year. These included our camp directors Matt Vella and Aaron Wardle; the catering team led by Gary Riches, Steve Wallace and Robert Wood on admin; GWS activities team for setting up the zip line into Bundilla on Saturday night; David Jacobs and the State Entertainment Team for the Bundilla disco; Jen Huthnance, Kristine Mason and Paula Hyatt on first aid and the multitude of people who ran activities across the region. Special thanks to Andrew Cross as 2IC and Shaun Lesslie who conceived, designed and managed the event.

Announcements on the theme and location for Waratah 2018 will be made at Region Venturer Scout Council first thing next year.

A team of Venturers, (now) Rovers from **1st Westmead** and Aaron Wardle successfully completed their trip to Nepal to trek to Everest Base Camp, arriving back early January. This was an extraordinary feat with some significant challenges ; in Aaron's words a huge success at extending everyone's physical limits.

Planning for **Roventure** on the weekend of 24 February is progressing well and we expect to open up for registrations shortly. The event is being run by GWSR Rovers at Camp Kariong, Gosford.

As we come to the end of the year, I thank everyone for their support and understanding during the ten months that I've been in this job. Next year is shaping up to be just as busy, active and challenging as last year and I look forward to working with you next year. **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

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



GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION - APPOINTMENTS LIST

13/11/2017 - 27/11/2017



APPOINTMENTS and TRANSFERS

SMITH, Rosemary	From AVSL To VSL-P	1st Oakville Venturer Unit 1st Oakville Venturer Unit
DOME, Kelly-Anne	From T/L (S) To ASL	1st Oakville Scout Troop 1st Oakville Scout Troop
DOUGLASS, Annette	From CSL To Hon Leader (G)	1st Parramatta Cub Scout Pack 1st Parramatta Scout Group
GIUSTI, Leo	From ACSL To CSL-P	1st Parramatta Cub Scout Pack 1st Parramatta Cub Scout Pack
JENKINSON, Stacy	Fellowship Member	Hawkesbury Black Horse Scout Fellowship
KNOX, Rebecca	From T/L (JS) To AJSL	1st Ermington Joey Scout Mob 1st Ermington Joey Scout Mob
McCREDDEN, Andrew	From T/L (S) To AVSL	1st Ermington Scout Troop 1st Ermington Venturer Unit
McGINTY, Lachlan	From AJSL To JSL-P	1st Balcombe Heights Joey Scout Mob 1st Balcombe Heights Joey Scout Mob
RUSSELL, Kelvin	From ASL To SL-P	1st Murray Farm Scout Troop 1st Murray Farm Scout Troop

RESIGNATIONS

BARTON, Karen	Appt TL (V)	1st Castle Hill Venturer Unit
CHAN, Marco	AJSL	1st Balcombe Heights Joey Scout Mob
MASSIE, Lauren	JSL	1st Balcombe Heights Joey Scout Mob

THE GOLDEN WEST REGION - APPOINTMENTS LIST

13/11/2017 - 27/11/2017



RESIGNATIONS

BARTLETT, Michelle	JSL-P	3rd Orange Joey Scout Mob
REHLING, Elizabeth	TL (CS)	3rd Orange Cub Scout Pack

REGION ACTIVITIES

I cannot believe we are now at the pointy end of the year, with Christmas just about upon us. It has certainly been a great year for the Region activities team, with this last month being no exception.

First weekend of the month saw our caving team down at Tuglow Caves for a bit of exploring in the underground. Certainly a great sense of achievement was had, as our intrepid Wombats were able to reach a 10m waterfall within the one of the cave systems.



That same weekend, as part of the annual Real Festival at Tench Park, I ran the climbing wall with help from Penrith District. It was a big day and half the night, (winding up at 10.00pm) and with over 100 enquiries of interest in Scouting to boot. A great effort by Steve Wallace and his team.

The following weekend most of the Rock Team including myself were at Bundilla for Waratah. Our task was to set up five traverses (flying foxes) across the creek, which the Ventures had to negotiate, after hiking in from Westmead Station. A massive effort from the team in getting around 180 Venturers across, with the last few just on dark. Special thank you to Mick Fry for his technical expertise, in helping with the setup on the day.



Photos: Mark Fell



Hopefully the trees can handle the load!



The following weekend David (Macca) McKinley ran a very successful abseil rescue day. This allows us to become better skilled in abseiling situations when things do not go quite to plan.

We were able to hone our skills in lowering and hauling systems, as well as self-rescues and “Pluck Offs” which is basically transferring a person off an abseil rope, and onto yourself, as the rescuer, and safely lowering them to the ground.

All skills we hope we never have to use; but when things do go a bit pear shaped, it is good to know we have the necessary abilities to cope with the situation. It is also a requirement of SIS qualifications that we do practise these skills.

There is some skill involved, but practise makes perfect

Photo: Tallia Joel

It is the same with water activities, with another successful canoeing workshop run by Tracey Hansford at Penrith. Day One is all about how to paddle correctly and then how to safely carry out both self-rescues and deep water “T” rescues.

Day two is the fun day when we put all our new skills into action., heading off upstream through the “Narrows and up into Glenbrook Gorge for a lunch stop over before heading back to Penrith.



It is hard to beat a great day on the water

Photo: Mark Fell



Our Yabbies, led by Ross Smith, had a great day of high adventure in the Wollangambe Canyon. They tell me this is all very serious, but as the photo suggests, I think they also have a bit of fun along the way.

***Cheaper than Wet n Wild,
and best of all no queues!***

Photo: Ross Smith



Being the last Bulletin for 2017, I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my huge thanks to the whole Activities Team, who have done a mammoth job this year with the GWS Region Activities. They have all really done us proud. Well done team!

I do hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, and I look forward to another year of fun and adventure in 2018.

Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities

Stage Manager CGS

Email: activities@greaterwestcouts.com.au



**Grow Your Group in 2018 and Receive a
Membership Fee Rebate in 2019!**

Following a review of the budgetary and operational requirements of the organisation by the State Finance Committee and the Board of Directors, the membership fees for the next Scout financial year (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019) will increase in line with CPI by \$1 per quarter, bringing the membership fee to \$41 per quarter. There is no increase to the one off joining fee for new Members, it remains at \$30.

Scouts NSW understands the careful balance it takes for Groups to budget and is always looking for new initiatives to support Groups grow their membership. Scouts NSW is introducing a powerful new incentive scheme in 2018, which is set to boost membership across the State. Under the new incentive scheme, all Scout Groups in NSW who record an increase in the net number of their paid members (Youth and Adult) in the 12 months beginning 1 January 2018 and ending 1 January 2019 will receive a financial reward in the form of an \$80 rebate for each additional net member!

This provides a real incentive to boost your Group's ranks, and support your Group financially. Want to learn more? [Click here](#), and start spreading the word!

BUSHWALKING - TRISTAN FLORES

Happy Retirement Frank - The End of an era!

On the 11th & 12th November Frank ran his last level 1 bushwalking course for NSW Branch at Pennant Hills Scout Camp. It was great to catch up on the Saturday and to join the course for a bushwalk to City View. The first major hike recorded in Frank's logbook was dated May 1954, when he was 9½! It was on a route that cannot be replicated today due to the flooding of the Burratorang Valley. His Scouting career has been almost as extensive as his bushwalking one. NSW Branch adopted a bushwalking policy in November 2000. Since then Frank has specialised as a bushwalking coordinator, national assessor and instructor.

Frank will be stepping back after Christmas into an honorary role. Frank has dedicated many years of his life to teaching others how to be more confident in the bush and giving us the skills to go and experience some of the most beautiful places in Australia - places that can only be reached on foot. On behalf of our team and region we send a sincere thank you to a Generous man, for his time, effort and patience. Frank is looking forward to spending more time with his Family and staying active with day walks.



Royal National Park 18th & 19th November - Well done to the Scouts who braved the elements to experience the Royal National Park at its best, on a region hike from Helensburgh to Otford via Hacking River, Garrawarra Farm and North Era. The rain did not dampen our spirits. The Hacking River proved to be an obstacle after the overnight rain; we stopped to assess the safest option for our group and considered a detour or turning back. We made a plan and worked together to overcome the challenge. A good opportunity for team building and cooperation. After the river we made good timing, in fact our fastest time on this route. The rain eventually stopped and the sky cleared. It was a pleasure to accompany such a motivated group of young people. Hope to see you again next year.

Thank you - This year has been memorable for many reasons; the number of people who have participated in region hikes is amazing. We were proud to maintain the monthly frequency and increase access to bushwalking across the region. We would like to say thank you to the scout leaders, parents and carers who have supported us, promoted the program and trusted us to take care of their children on these adventures in the national parks in and around Sydney. We could not have done it without you. We hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and holiday.



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



JOEY SCOUT PROMISE CHALLENGE AWARDS



Back row (left to right)
Mitchell Shaw (Stx) JSL 1st Cambridge Park
Brian Zarth RCJS GWSR
Jade Suthers (Goanna) JSL 1st St Marys

Front row (Left to right)

AWARDEES

Dylan Mathieson 1st Cambridge Park
Kirsten McDonald 1st St Marys
Hannah Suthers 1st St Marys



Back row (left to right)
Jodie Shaw (Quoll) AJSL 1st Winston Hills
Tracey Priest GL 1st Cambridge Park and
Admin Officer 1st St Marys
Mitchell Shaw (Stx) JSL 1st Cambridge Park
Jade Suthers (Goanna) JSL 1st St Marys
Brian Zarth RCJS GWSR

Front row (Left to right)

AWARDEES

Dylan Mathieson 1st Cambridge Park
Kirsten McDonald 1st St Marys
Hannah Suthers 1st St Marys

Thank you Jade Suthers JSL 1st St Marys Joey Mob

**PLEASE!!
NOTE**

***The Region Office will close on
December 22 and reopen on
January 11, 2018.***

***From January 11 to January 29 the Region Office will be open on
Thursday and Friday only - just two days a week.***

Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, January 30, 2018.

Merry Christmas



ACYP Youth Parliament

On the 25th and 26th of October, I was fortunate enough to represent 1st Glossodia and NSW Scouts at the annual ACYP Youth Parliament. Throughout NSW, ten scouts were chosen to represent our contingent amongst around one hundred other students like ourselves, eager to make a change in our society.

Whilst participating in Youth Parliament, myself and the other attendees had the opportunity to speak freely about topics that we thought needed to be addressed in our State. These topics ranged from bullying and abuse prevention to environmental strategies that the youth of NSW felt needed to be implemented. The two day course was an amazing opportunity and experience which I am very grateful to have experienced.

During the first day of Youth Parliament we learnt about Parliamentary etiquette and the roles of Local, State and Federal Parliament. After our briefing, Lucy Turnbull came and talked about her role in Parliament and how important it is to speak up for what you believe in. After lunch, we wrote speeches which we were to be presented in the NSW Parliament the following day. The bill that I presented as the member for The Hawkesbury was about safety on public transport and how it is important to keep our local resources safe and accessible for the wider community. We then went to the Baden Powell Scout Centre in Pennant Hills where we stayed overnight.

The second day of the program consisted of a trip to the NSW State Parliament. We spent most of our day in the Legislative Assembly (also known as the bear pit) where we mainly listened to members of parliament and listened to people deliver their bills. One of those members was Justin Field, who is a member of the Green's Party, and he talked about his party's commitment to benefitting and preserving Australia's environment. I was fortunate enough to ask him a question concerning our recyclables ending up in landfill, and his party's strategy to call out the companies doing wrong by Australians.

My time at Youth Parliament was like no other, and I can't thank Scouts NSW enough for allowing me the opportunity to pursue one of my interests and broaden my knowledge of our State. Whilst at Youth Parliament I not only learned about Parliament, but I made new friends and memories that I will always cherish. It was a pleasure representing this great organisation, and I hope to do so again some time in the future.

Chloe Tyrrell (Age 13)
1st Glossodia Scouts





THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

by

1ST/2ND MERRYLANDS CUB PACK



On the first day of Christmas, Akela gave to me; my very own colour party!

On the second day of Christmas, Akela gave to me; two left hand shakes and my very own colour party!

On the third day of Christmas, Akela gave to me, three K named leaders, two left hand shakes and my very own colour party

On the fourth day of Christmas, Akela gave to me; four poison balls, three K named leaders, two left hand shakes and my very own colour party

On the fifth day of Christmas, Akela gave to me; five mozzie bites!!!! Four poison balls, three K named leaders, two left hand shakes, and my very own colour party.

On the sixth day of Christmas, Akela gave to me; six nights of camping, five mozzie bites!!!! four poison balls, three K named leaders, two left hand shakes and my very own colour party.

On the seventh day of Christmas, Akela gave to me; seven parent helpers (PLEASE!!!), six nights of camping, five mozzie bites!!!! four poison balls, three K named leaders, two left hand shakes and my very own colour party.

On the eighth day of Christmas, Akela gave to me; eight cubs complaining, seven parent helpers, six nights of camping, five mozzie bites!!! four poison balls, three K named leaders, two left hand shakes and my very own colour party.

On the ninth day of Christmas, Akela gave to me; nine badges earned, eight cubs complaining, seven parent helpers, six nights of camping, five mozzie bites!!!! four poison balls, three K named leaders, two left hand shakes and my very own colour party.

On the tenth day of Christmas, Akela gave to me; ten Tuesday nights, nine badges earned, eight cubs complaining, seven parent helpers, six nights of camping, five mozzie bites!!!! four poison balls, three K named leaders, two left hand shakes and my very own colour party.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, Akela gave to me; eleven great traditions, ten Tuesday nights, nine badges earned, eight cubs complaining, seven parent helpers, six nights of camping, five mozzie bites!!!! four poison balls, three K named leaders, two left hand shakes and my very own colour party.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, Akela gave to me, twelve walkabouts, eleven great traditions, ten Tuesday nights, nine badges earned, eight cubs complaining, seven parent helpers, six nights of camping, five mozzie bites!!!! four poison balls, three K named leaders, two left hand shakes and my very own colour party.



GWSR sites during JOTA/JOTI 2017

Bowen Mountain

About 70 Hawkesbury and Penrith Scouts camped over the weekend in Bowen Mtn Park and rediscovered the potential for exciting activities that had been enjoyed by an earlier generation of Hawkesbury Scouts, ten years previously.

Three operators from the **Blue Mountains Amateur Radio club** provided radios for HF and UHF. Erik (VK2EJH) was impressed by the lack of radio noise and spoke to America and England during the weekend.

Penrith Scouts provided eight laptops for JOTI on a 4G connection which were in constant use and Mimi of 1st Grose Vale was talking to New Zealand Scouts on her tablet - walking around showing them some of the activity bases and the local Scouts.

Other bases included:

- *Geocaching* walk on a fire trail
- *LEGO remote build* by radio instruction
- *Mission Impossible* string maze
- *Car Crash Emergency* involving mains power wire hazard
- *Sheep Dog Trial* - blindfold maze navigation with instruction by sighted 'farmer'
- *Mind Bender* challenge
- *Soldering* a wire sculpture
- *Defuse the bomb* and *Mario Racing* which were video assisted challenge
- *Speed Gun* ball throw velocity measure
- A trailer load of fun with *Engines, High voltage, and circuit wiring* provided by the **Hawkesbury Fellowship**.

The Scouts also 'electrified' their Base Card by soldering in three LEDs, which they could turn on in sequence with switches on the side. They were assisted in this task by local residents Peter Coffill and Andy & Stacey Jenkinson.

Two members of the local **Astronomical Association** arrived Saturday evening with their telescopes to show the Scouts clear views of Saturn with its rings and even 2 or 3 of its moons, as well as some of the 'not so near' heavenly objects.

On Sunday, Joeys, Cubs and Guides visited to join in some of the activities and have a *Billy Cart* ride down the sloped end of the Park.

Glenbrook

The old Scout Hall in the corner of the oval was staffed by six members of the **Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club**. They used several Radios in conjunction with the Dural Repeater, to talk with Scouts around the world.

They also put on more traditional communication bases involving

- *Mores Code lights*,
- *Phonetic Alphabet* - speaking your name
- Talking on *Mobile Radios*.
- The sustaining sausage sizzle was provided by the **Blue Mountains Fellowship**.

John Leahey
Region Leader Activities
Email: john.scoutleahy@gmail.com





JOTA/JOTI 2017

21/OCT/2017

22/OCT/2017



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.

Articles and illustrations from The Bulletin (except for copyright items) may be re-used unaltered by other Scouting publications and credits shown.

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

Email : bulletin@greaterwestscouts.com.au

Please note....

**There is no January issue of The Bulletin
All submissions are due by January 31 for
the February 2018 issue.**

**Thank you for all the reports, great photos and interesting articles
that you have sent in throughout the year.**



Merry Christmas from the Editor