



The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 481 – December 2019



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 would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

With the year coming to an end, I want to thank so many people for all they do for scouting; all the leaders, parents, committees, the region team, Kim and Wendy from our office, Geoff and Tony but mostly my wife and family for all their support this year. Please be safe and enjoy your Christmas with your family.

Also please look back at the year you had and what you have done. The fun things, the things you enjoyed and let's all come back in 2020 to do it bigger and better.

Groups should now be finishing their **accounts** for 2019. Remember to have them completed and at **Region Office** before the end of **March**. This is not negotiable. Any groups that do not have them completed by the end of March will not be able to fundraise and may be suspended.

I cannot stress this enough. This includes all Groups, Fellowships and Rover Crews. This directive has come from Board of Directors of Scouts NSW. We need to do this for one simple reason - to be compliant under the Charity Act. I will be contacting some groups directly regarding this urgent matter.

There has been a good take up of the **Scouts NSW emails** for Group Leaders and section leaders. Thank you for your efforts in this. Also, the A1 and A2 and Y1 forms now being online is going well. Thank you all for making this process work. There will be more changes next year, I hope these go as easy.

Leaders in Charge, I need your help. As you should be aware, the Leader in Charge appointment should only be for 12 months and is a temporary appointment. This will start to be enforced next year. So if you have been in the position as LIC please start to think about what we need to do to get a Group Leader appointed in your group. The region team is here to help.

Cuboree is just around the corner. To all those going, have fun. I hope to catch up with you down there. I will be on Sub-camp Ruby. Look out for the Ruby Shoes see if you can find them.... !

David Stopps
Region Commissioner
Email: rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au
Mobile: 0472 688 766 (04SCOUTS66)



Three generations of the Henderson Family! Neville, Andrew, James, Geoff and Laura at James' going up to Scouts.

GWS REGION OFFICE

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR CLOSURE

Please take note that the Region Office will be closed from

**December 21, 2019
until January 8, 2020 (inclusive)**

**From Thursday Jan 9, 2020
the office will be open on
Thursdays and Fridays only from
9am to 3.30pm**

**Normal hours will resume on
Tuesday February 4, 2020**

**We wish you all a safe and
happy festive season**

Kim and Wendy



ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS 2020

Hi everyone. It is that time of the year, when we all have to consider nominating a leader or supporter for an Adult Recognition Award. I have started to do mine, so far up to 10.

As I have said on many occasions - these are *GOOD SERVICE AWARDS* not *LONG SERVICE AWARDS*.

A list of members who are eligible has been sent to your Group Leader and District Commissioner so get in touch with them to check on the eligibility of someone you want to nominate.

Once you have completed your nomination please email in word format to neville@greaterwestscouts.com.au by close of business **on Monday 27th January 2020**.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDS

Please look at the rules on the Scouts Australia website scouts.com.au search for Adult Recognition Awards 2020 Guidelines.

LEADERS

For Special Service, Meritorious Services Award and Silver Wattle Award
I only require a citation (in word format) of not more than 1500 characters.

Silver Koala, Silver Emu and Silver Kangaroo
I need a completed nomination form including a citation (both in word format).
The citation should not be more than 1500 characters.

SUPPORTERS

Special Service, Meritorious Services Award and Outstanding Service Award
I only require a citation (in word format) of not more than 1500 characters.

Distinguished Service Award and National President's Award
I need a completed nomination form including a citation (both in word format).
The citation should not be more than 1500 characters.

If you have any enquiries do not hesitate to contact me.

*Have a very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy
New Year from Joy and myself.*

Neville Henderson OAM JP
Honorary Commissioner
neville@greaterwestscouts.com.au



The Joey Scout Promise Challenge Award

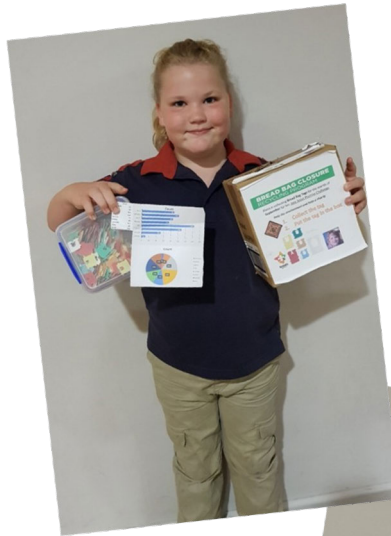
Alana Kokay - 1st Winston Hills

I am Alana Kokay, a Joey Scout from 1st Winston Hills Scout Group. I decided to collect bread bag tags to be recycled into other useful plastic products and to support Clean-up Australia at the same time; as part of my earning the premier award in Joeys, the Promise Challenge Award.

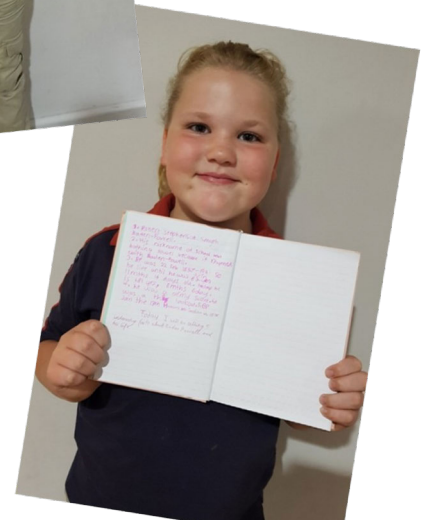
I collected for one month with the help of my family, Scout Group and Westmead Hospital approximately 1/4 kilogram of tags, needing one kilogram for free shipping,

Alana decided to continue to the end of the Scouting year. She presented her findings to her Joey Mob with confidence and great knowledge as the Mob has to agree that she has done all the elements to qualify for the Promise Challenge Award, which she did.

Alana has since reached the magic 1kg mark, with over 2,660 tags collected! **Hop, Hop, Hop Alana**



Collected tags & collection box



Alana's written knowledge on Scouting



1. Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell.
 2. His nickname at school was bathing towel because it rhymed with Baden-Powell.
 3. BP was 22 Feb 1857-1941 so he live until he was 83. Yrs 11mths 16 days old. today he is 181 yrs, 8mths 6day.
 4. he was a army scout. he was a thier lookout. 5. BP Join the 13th Hussars in India in 1876
 Today I will be telling 5 interesting facts about Baden Powell and his life



Alana presenting her findings to the Joey Scout Mob

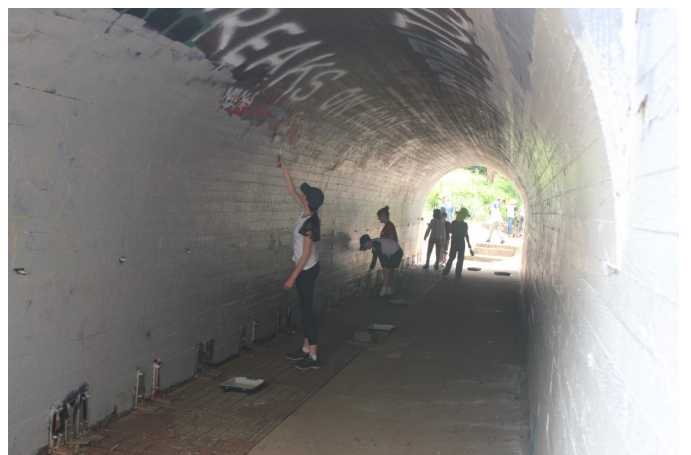
**NATIONAL GRAFFITI REMOVAL DAY
PARRAMATTA DISTRICT**

On Sunday 3rd November, Parramatta District Scouts from 1st Ermington, 1st North Rocks, 1st Parramatta, 1st Carlingford, 1st Murray Farm and 2nd Northmead in conjunction with Rotary took part in the National Graffiti Removal Day activities at the flood retention basin off Loyalty Road in North Rocks.

This is an important site for us as we use the area for many hikes throughout the year. Removing the graffiti was a great example of Scouting in our local community.

Special thanks to Dulux for providing the paint and application gear and to David Elliot MP who also came by to offer his support.

Laurence Wilson (Kiwi) ASL
1st North Rocks



CUB SCOUTS

2019 THANKS

As 2019 draws to a close, I would like to thank all the Cub Leaders in GWSR for your dedication and commitment to the youth members of the Region and for doing such a great job over the past year.

I would like to start off by thanking the wonderful Region Seeonee Team: Andrew Selmes, Robert Rigby, Jeff Hook, Michelle Mclean, Alice Gravina, Katie Vane and Phil Heinrich who have not only supported me throughout 2019, but they have also worked hard supporting the Groups, Districts and Region activities and events throughout 2019.

In 2019, we held the first ever Region Cub Camp 'Cuboree', I would like to thank the whole Region that pulled together to assist with the camp, in particular Steve Wallace and Robert Rigby, who worked many tiresome hours pulling it all together.

Thanks to the members of Pinnaroo Fellowship Anne & Paul Thompson and Peter & Lesley Tamsett for assisting with catering for the three Cub Scout Leadership Courses held in 2019, along with the Cub Leaders that also provided much needed support for these courses.

It has been very exciting working with the Region Cub Youth Council in 2019. I thank all the Cubs for providing their honest feedback, sharing their ideas and their enthusiasm with the Region Seeonee team.

PLANNING FOR 2020

Many Groups and Cub Packs have started to plan their program for 2020. In consultation with the Region Cub Youth Council, the Region Cub calendar has now been completed and is available on the GWS Region website. In planning for 2020, the four Challenge Areas: Community, Outdoors, Personal Growth and Creative have been taken into consideration.

There will be four Cub Scout Leadership Courses held in 2020. The Region Bushwalking team, together with the Region Seeonee team, have scheduled two Cub bushwalks. The Region Water team will be scheduling a Joey-Cub water-canoe day. In June 2020, the Region will be holding the inaugural whole Region camp 'Regionette'. The theme is 'Kingdoms and Empires of the Universe'.

There will also be the 'Big Cub Day Out' and an exciting Community engagement activity.

Please ensure that your Unit plans include your Cubs joining in the many activities available – visit <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/>

EXCITING NEW YEAR AHEAD 2020

I hope everyone has a very relaxing break and that you find some time to rejuvenate for the new year.

The first and most exciting activity on the Cub calendar for 2020 is the **NSW Cuboree 2020** which will kick off in less than **3 weeks time!** This Cuboree promises to be bigger and better than ever before with more people, more activities, more challenges, more friends and more fun!

This year, GWS Region has a record number of attendees. Thank you very much to all the dedicated people from within GWS who are working hard to ensure our young people experience the best time of their life at Cuboree. From the Leaders in the Units, to those on the bases, to the people behind the scenes working in areas such as camping, program, security, registrations, infrastructure and logistics, many of whom have spent the last 18 months to 2 years planning on and working towards Cuboree.



THANK YOU

This week marks my second year in the role of Region Commissioner Cub Scouts, and my last. Last month David Stopps announced that moving forward into 2020, the roles of the RC Cubs and RC Joeys will be combined into one new role.

I would like to thank all those who have helped me and supported me over the past two years. There are too many to list here, but you all know who you are. It has been a pleasure and an honour to have worked with you during this time and I am sincerely grateful for the guidance and support that I have received.

I wish you and your family a safe break, take care. I hope to see you in 2020!

Yours in Scouting,

Gabie Thompson (Darzee)
Region Commissioner Cub Scouts
Email: cubs@greaterwestscouts.com.au





Congratulations to the following Cub Scouts who have achieved their Grey Wolf Award, the peak award for Cubs

Cameron Burke-Millard
1st Nurragingy

Thomas Valentine
1st Nurragingy

Alexander Chapman
1st Oakville

Cameron Skinner
1st Oakville

Amaali Badra
1st Blaxland

Olive Gauci
1st Blaxland

1- 2 - 3 - WOOF

1ST/2ND MERRYLANDS SCOUT GROUP

1st/2nd Merrylands Scouts had great time at Narrabeen on their annual water weekend. The rovers and leaders who were running the camp this weekend had once been the young ones who came along and had it run for them - makes us old leaders proud.



An Indoor Campfire

So this is Scouting. Here is the living proof that it teaches independence, altruism and life skills. It also inspires young people to give of their best while they make lifelong friends and enjoy exciting and fun experiences. Here is a living example of the benefits it brings. And it's great to see our young people passing on all the good things they received.

Jeanie Wood Group Leader
1st/2nd Merrylands St. Anne's
halfmerrylandsgroup@gmail.com



SCOUTS

Merry Christmas everyone!! We have been very busy this year – but you all know that.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of my team for the wonderful work they have put in over the year. I can't run the region scouts without you all.

To all the leaders out there who turn up every week and weekend, I'd like to thank all of you and your families for supporting you to do this and provide the region with the wonderful effort and all the time you put in over the year to deliver the awesome program that scouts is. THANK YOU!! BRAVO-O-O!!

I'd also like to thank my family for putting up with me and the endless phone calls, meetings and planning time and missed dinners they have been subjected to. I couldn't do what I do without their support. So, thank you David, Ayla, Kyara, Jye, Tanaya, Kyle and Jamie-Lea. You guys are the bomb!

Ok Term 4 is almost over!

Planning should be taking shape for 2020.

REGION MINDARI CAMP

Our Region Mindari Camp being held 31/01 - 2/2/2020. This camp is for all Scout Leaders, Assistant Scout Leaders and Scout Leaders in training. It will be a laid back, relaxing training camp. Register at <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/258>

I fully expect every single troop to be represented. **Please register NOW.** This camp goes towards the training hours you need to do every year.

REGIONETTE

As usual the June long weekend is our Jamborette 5th -8th June at Cataract. This year's camp will be our very first Regionette. Everyone is invited to attend. All sections and their families for the whole weekend.

Rovers and Venturers will camp as usual on their own sub-camp while joeys, cubs, scouts and their families will camp together.

Fellowship has the opportunity to camp with a group or stay in accommodation. The theme is **'Kingdoms and Empires of the Universe'**.

Registrations are open. So be prepared!

Don't leave things to the last minute!

If any troops/units need extra help to run nights, please don't be shy in asking for help. We love to help. If you need someone short notice, please call me – If I can't make it, I'm pretty sure I can find someone who can. We all know what it's like to be short-handed and we understand how things just happen.

I look forward to seeing you all and working with you all in the coming year. There will be changes for everyone but they aren't bad so let's embrace the future and welcome the challenges ahead. Roll on 2020!

Tracey Stopps (Wiangi)

Region Commissioner Scouts

scouts@greaterwestscouts.com.au



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE REGION MINDARI CAMP

WHEN: 31ST JAN-2ND FEB 2020

WHERE: BERRIMA SCOUT CAMP

WHO: ALL SLS, ASLS AND TRAINEE SLS

COST: \$25 NO CATERING \$50 CATERING

WHY? This is a training weekend during the day then a more relaxed social evening. It will cover your training requirements for the year and help with networking, planning etc.

Sessions may include:

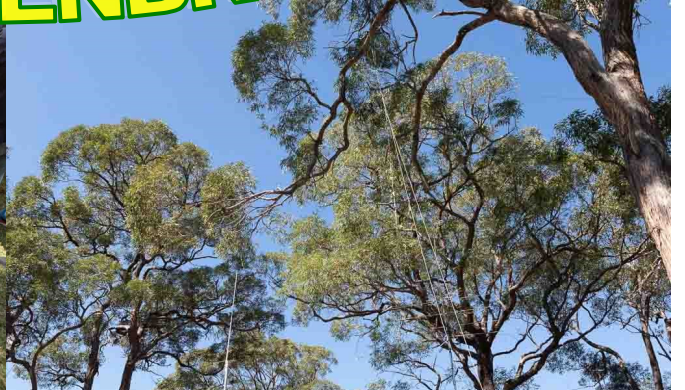
- New Program—What it means for scouts
- Construction
- Social Media
- Mental Health
- Woodbadge Ideas

REGISTER @ <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/258>

There is a creek so bring some swimmers.



JOTA @ GLENBROOK



Photos courtesy of Mary-Jane Allan, Blue Mts Scout Fellowship



**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
1ST GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGIONETTE
AND THE
43RD GWS JAMBORETTE**

WHEN: 4-8 JUNE 2020

WHERE: CATARACT SCOUT PARK

WHY: We are inviting all members of scouts (Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers, Leaders, Fellowship and Honorary) of GWS to attend **AND** their families!

Register for your whole group and families at:

<https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/259>

Note: Venturers and Rovers will be camped on their own subcamps as per normal Jamborette.

Fellowships and Honorary Members have the opportunity to bunk.

All others will camp together as a group in their district areas.

Activities will be supplied in sections. All districts are to supply 2 bases per section (2x Joeys, 2x Cubs, 2x Scouts) **All** Venturers are expected to work on/run bases. Rovers are as usual to work on security and/or run bases or go as line leaders. Please submit the base applications to rcscoutsgws1@gmail.com

VENTURER SCOUTS

I would like to congratulate Abi Ewings and Hannah Kilvington from 1st Kellyville on achieving their Queen's Scout Award.

We had a huge enrolment to an Environment workshop at 1st Winston Hills Scout Hall in September. The workshop was focused on issues relating to climate change that included discussions, videos, and presentations by Venturers and leaders from the region. A highlight was a talk by Mark Thompson, an engineer from the Australian Energy Market Operator on climate change aspects of electricity supply. Thanks to Jane McCormick from 1st Glossodia and her team for putting the day together.

The highlight for November was our annual **Waratah Venturer Scout Activity**, titled **"I'm a Venturer, Get Me Out of Here"** held at Scheyville National Park in Sydney's north west. Around 150 Venturers, Rovers and leaders attended the event. Venturers accepted a variety of challenges ranging from performing an opera, rescuing a drop bear from the trees, sensory maze, edible insects and a few cupcake surprises.

Congratulations to our winners:

Waratah Award - (Overall Winners)

True Blue - 1st Blaxland

River Red Gum - (Best GWS)

True Blue - 1st Blaxland

Mountain Devil Award - (Best Out of Region)

Hills Squad - 1st Cherrybrook & Cheltenham

Golden Wattle Award - (Most Enthusiastic)

Joint winners Agoraphobia - 1st Glossodia and Eggplant Squad - 1st Kings Langley

Wollemi Pine Award - (Best Challenge Base)

**Colour Zone (phobia - 'pit toilet' challenge)
John Aquilina and Kieran Glacken**

Thanks to Camp Chief Andrew Cross; Activities Directors Matt Vella and Bryn Katlin; Concept Lead Steve Wallace; Admin Kelly Wallace and Rob Wood; Support Kristine Mason; Catering Lead Gary Riches and Sites and Services lead John Wicks and their teams for putting the weekend together.



True Blue performing in the Talent Quest



Sensory Maze



Team Leaders meeting in the main hall

November and December have been affected by the terrible bushfires around Sydney these last few weeks, with many activities cancelled as a result of the fire risk and the hazardous air quality. Please ensure everyone takes extra care at this time.

Next year promises to be very busy with the State Venturer Vertigo activity in January and GWS Roventure in February. We are also looking at some slight reorganisation of courses to accommodate some Venturers who are ageing out soon. Hope to come through with an update soon.

I also want to thank my team; Damon, Matt, Andrew, Erica and Chris and all the Venturer leaders throughout the region for their help and support during the year. Looking forward to another good year.

Brian Nelson
Region Commissioner Venturer Scouts
venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au



REGIONAL ACTIVITIES TEAM



Each month I write about all the great activities that have been happening since the previous Region Bulletin. We are a pretty active Region, so there is usually a good story to share!

But this month is a bit different!

I going to acknowledge the activities that did not happen. And I am even going to thank the many people, who ensured they didn't happen.

This last month we have seen some unprecedented bushfire conditions, culminating now in extreme air pollution from the bush fire smoke (*and I am writing this only a few days into the start of summer!*).

It is not often I will make a call to the whole Region on a stop of virtually all outdoor activities on a weekend, and something I certainly do not take lightly. Can I pass on my thanks to everyone who has abided by the many warnings from the RFS, BOM, National Parks and even one RC Act.

I appreciate, as leaders, much time is spent in preparing for that camp or hike, and to have to cancel out is frustrating, not the mention the huge disappointment for our youth.

But both theirs and our safety and wellbeing, are paramount!

When planning outdoor activities there are a number of great websites which I find very helpful.

Willy weather gives you a 5-day weather forecast in a particular area, including tides, making it great for water activities.

<https://www.willyweather.com.au/nsw.html>

If planning a hike particularly in National Parks, try.

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alerts/alerts-list>

This will alert you to the current fire situations in

certain areas, bearing in mind, sometimes parks are closed not because of weather or fire. It had a recent situation where an area was closed due to a bait drop being carried out for the control of feral animals (Foxes....not Dingos)!

I spent a very enjoyable evening with Tristan Flores, as we celebrated the great achievements with Bushwalking in the GWS Region. This included a presentation by Tristan on what is planned for 2020. We are certainly privileged to have people like Tristan on the team, who love to share their outdoor passions.



Well that really bring me to a close for 2019.

I know you all will join with me to say a special thank you to the whole activities team, for their effort over 2019. It has certainly been a huge year.

I would also like to acknowledge Region Council under the leadership of our Region Commissioner, Dave Stopps, and of course our wonderful ladies, Kim & Wendy, in the Region Office, for their support and encouragement over the year.

And thank you to all yourselves, the leaders and helpers, who are really at the “coalface” with our youth.

May you all have a very happy Christmas, and have a fun filled 2020. Please stay safe, particularly those in bushfire affected areas. Take time, if you get a chance to thank an RFS volunteer. The effort they are putting in at present is nothing but extraordinary.

Merry Christmas!

Mark Fell (Dingo)

Region Commissioner Activities

acvities@greaterwestscouts.com.au



MAGNIFIERS FOR THE CURIOUS YOUNG SCIENTIST

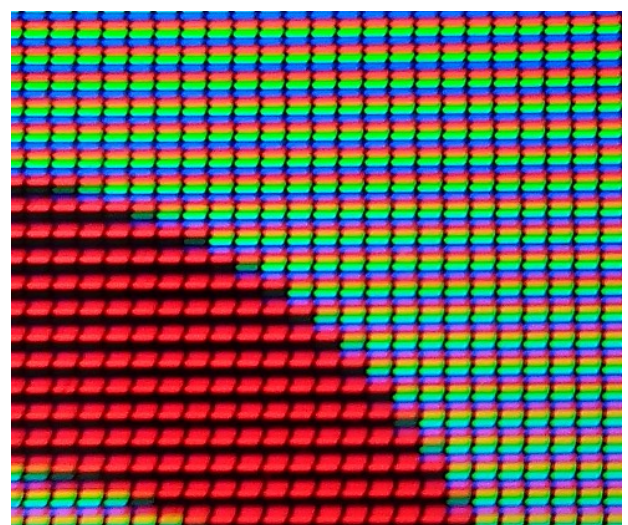
The first is a **Pocket Microscope** with its own light source for getting up close without shadowing the object you are looking at. An added bonus is you can switch between white or blue light for detecting fluorescence in money, plants or minerals. Magnification is about x60, and the image reasonably undistorted over the field of view. This one was called 'currency detecting with LED microscope' and cost under \$10. The pictures show a size comparison with, and small type on a box of matches.



The other magnifier converts a pocket computer (you probably call it a mobile phone) into something useful – **a versatile image capture device**. A plastic clip clamps onto the 'phone over the camera, and various lenses screw into it. The lenses include a x12 Telescope, Fisheye lens, x0.65 Wide angle lens, and x10 Macro (close up) lens.

All that would be good value as it is, but this package also includes a LED illuminator, which is useful for close up photos as on the Pocket Microscope above. The light is composed of 8 white LEDs and 4 light orange LEDs for colour balance, AND switches through three levels of brightness for optimum exposure. The internal battery is rechargeable from an USB port. This unit was bought at Aldi in the first week of December 2019 for \$20.

Photos show the unit clipped to a small phone, and an area of white on a computer screen taken with the Macro lens. The red, green and blue pixels are clearly shown.



John Leahy
GWS Radio, Science & Technology Leader



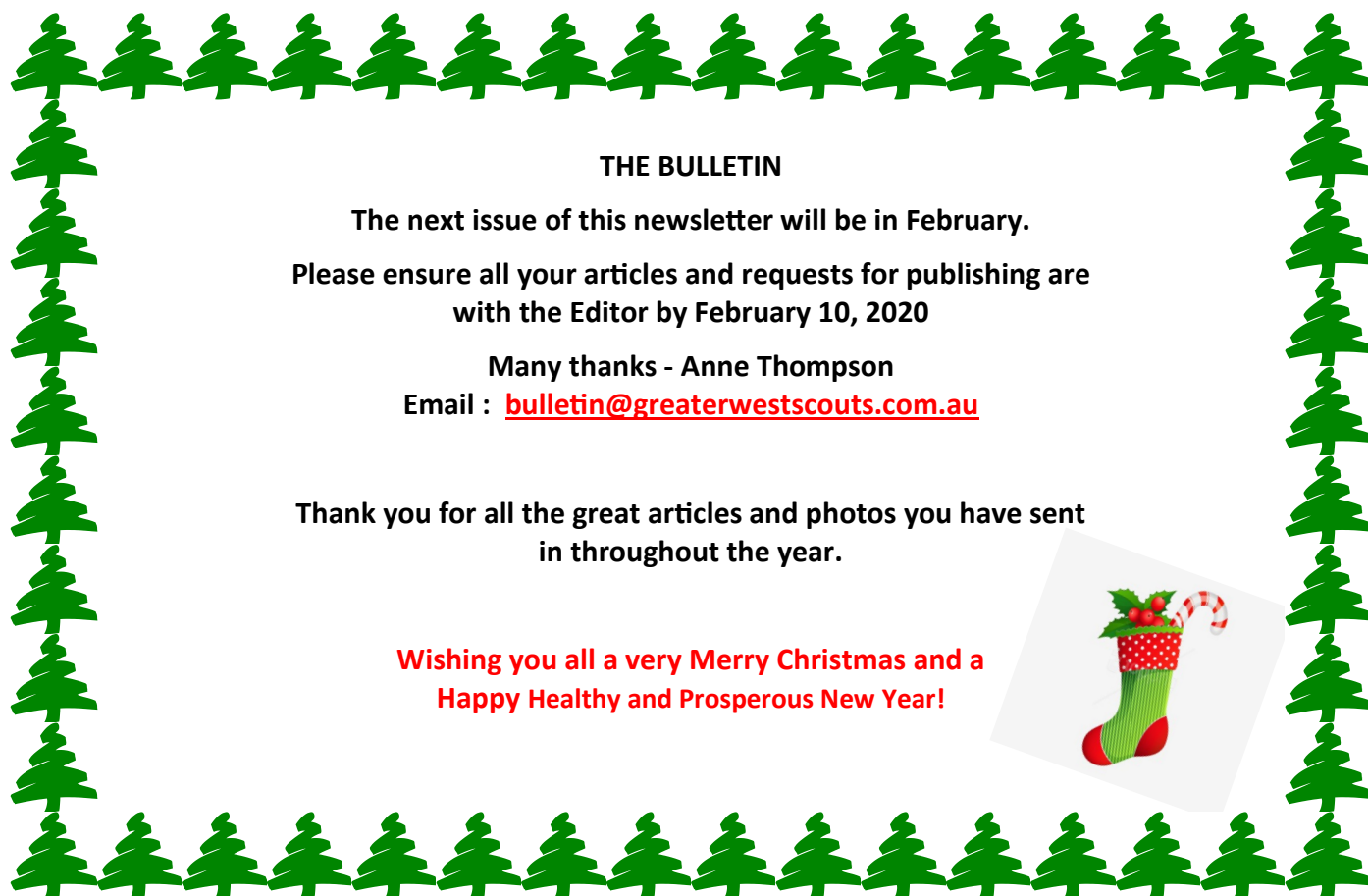
The Bulletin is edited and published for the general information of members in the Greater Western Sydney Region.

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 10th of each month and may be edited for clarity or to fit available print space. Anything received after the 10th will not be published until the following month.

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
bulletin@greaterwestscouts.com.au



THE BULLETIN

The next issue of this newsletter will be in February.

Please ensure all your articles and requests for publishing are with the Editor by February 10, 2020

Many thanks - Anne Thompson

Email : bulletin@greaterwestscouts.com.au

Thank you for all the great articles and photos you have sent in throughout the year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

