



The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 505 – April 2022



The Scout Association of Australia
NSW Branch
Greater Western Sydney Region



Mr Ross Grove

Region President

Mrs Debbie Howlett

Region Chair

Mr David Stopps

Region Commissioner

Invite you to attend the

75th Greater Western Sydney Region Annual Report Presentation

Sunday 5th June 2022

Commencing 2:30pm at Bundilla

Dress: Full Scout Uniform (Members) or Smart Casual (Non Members)
Afternoon tea will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Please RSVP by Friday 27th May 2022

rsvp@greaterwestscouts.com.au

GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION OFFICE

6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills 2153

BUSINESS HOURS: MONDAY to FRIDAY 9AM to 4.30PM

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JOEY SCOUT FUN DAY

Sunday 15th May 2022

Bundilla Scout Camp

Come join us for a day of fun and adventure as we explore our environment and the world around us!

Applications for GWS Joey Scout Fun Day are now open.

Visit

<https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/584>

for more information.



GWS REGION KONARA/PALANEE

'Treasure Island'

This event is a fun leader training night for all Leaders working in the Joey Scout and Cub Scout sections.

Youth Helpers assisting in the sections are also welcome to attend.

Friday 6th May, 2022 7:15pm - 9:30pm

@ Bundilla Scout Camp Cost: \$10 per person

What to bring: Compass, Torch, Mess Kit, Pirate outfit or Uniform

Dress: Participants may dress in theme if they wish; otherwise wear your Scout Uniform.

If you have your Gilwell scarf, you are encouraged to wear it also.

Register at <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/586>

Registrations close on Thursday May 5, 2022

Kelly Wallace (Kanga)

kelly.wallace@nsw.scouts.com.au



REGION COMMISSIONER

Hi Everyone, I want to start this month by recognising two of our youth members. **Phoebe and Cassandra from 2nd Baulkham Hills Venturers** were asked to act as MCs at the recent Chief Commissioner's Gala Dinner. Both young ladies handled this role with poise and professionalism and were even called out by Guest Speaker Greg Page (the original Yellow Wiggle) as naturals!

Congratulations Phoebe and Cassandra on how you represented yourselves, your families, and Scouting at all levels. You are a credit to the Region. If you have a story about the success of our youth



members – we would love to hear it. Make sure that you post your story and photos to our GWS Region Adults and Supporters Facebook group.

Ticket Sales for the **2022 Cumberland Gang Show – Next Level** are now open. As always, the cast and the crew of the show have done an amazing job in developing this year's performance - their first show in two years. There are only limited performances and tickets are selling fast – make sure you get yours before they sell out at <https://riversideparramatta.com.au/show/cumberland-gang-show-next-level/>

The **2022 ARP Season** is almost over and I note that there are a large number of Groups that are still to hold their ARP or provide the required information to the Region Office. This information is well and truly overdue and ARPs need to be held by the end of this month. If you need assistance, now is the time to reach out – we can't help you, if we don't know there is a problem. The **Region ARP** will be held on **Sunday the 5th June 2022 at Bundilla**. Like Groups, we are required to hold an ARP and present the successes of the year. I would like to strongly encourage all interested members to attend our ARP and hear what we are doing to support our Groups.

Our next major weekend event is the **GWS Region Jamborette**, held on the long weekend. Applications for this event close on the 6th May and I can't wait to see how this will be our biggest camp yet. As it stands today, applications are incredibly low and I am hoping there will be a high number of applications in the next few days, or else we will need to consider our ability to deliver this event.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone involved in the delivery of the recent **GWS Region Cuborette**. Cuborette was a major challenge to deliver this year, both as the first major Cub event in two years as well as a camp that was challenged by the weather. When I visited the site on Saturday morning, it was great to see the number of smiles and laughter across the site (mainly the cubs), after camping the night in the torrential rain.

The feedback on how our Cubs and Leaders demonstrated their resilience and commitment to getting the most out of the activities on offer has been nothing but positive.

Keep Getting Out There, Keep Having Fun and I will see you out on the Scouting Path

Dave

David Stopps JP
Region Commissioner

David.Stopps@nsw.scouts.com.au

Mobile: 0472 688 766 (04SCOUTS66)



FIRST AID COURSE

Saturday 21st May, 2022

8:30am - 11:30am or

12:00pm - 3:00pm

@

2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Hall

25 Jasper Road, Baulkham Hills

Non-member \$75

Scouts/Guides \$55

Must be over 14 years of age to attend this half day intensive first aid course.



Registrations close Friday 6th May

Maximum 25 people per session

So book now.

For full details and to register

<https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/477>

DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER AT&D AND DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

TRAINING REPORT

This Month we saw 4 courses run in our Region - Scouting Essentials , Scouting Management, Scouting Adventures and Scouting Leadership, and we will be looking for all of you that need a course to sign up for the July 23 and 24 at Bundilla.

To apply go to the state event calendar and click on the course information, that will take you to the online application.

We also have courses on in September and November if you can't make July.

We are looking for someone Under 30 to become part of the Training team. Requirements are that you must hold a Wood Badge and be prepared to help on courses.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION REPORT

This month we have started to recruit a team for this very challenging area of Scouting. I'm happy to announce that to start the process off, Erica Dilworth has accepted the challenge; hopefully we will have a few more join this team.

If you have an interest in this area please contact either Erica or myself and talk about what you could do for Diversity and Inclusion.

Tony Dent

**DRC Adult Training & Development and
Diversity and Inclusion**

tony.dent@nsw.scouts.com.au



What Social Media is Out There?

Most groups are familiar with and are using Facebook as their preferred Social Media of Choice. Rover Crews and some edgier groups will be using alternatives such as Snapchat, Instagram and more.

What should I use?

You should use the social media platform that is best for you. **You should consider:**

- **Purpose – What am I trying to achieve?** If you are looking for a communication tool within your group where people can post un-moderated, then you should make sure your group is private or secret. If you are looking to promote your group to the wider world, consider a public page where you share information and limit the number of people who can post.
- **Appetite** – Some parents do not like their children appearing on social media, while others may even be subject to court mandated restrictions. Some parents may also actively steer away from Social Media. Consider these and other factors that are particular to your group when you make a decision on what Social Media to use.
- **Youth Safety** – Consider how you can apply Youth Safety to your social media site. There are minimum standards that you must meet (which are in the documents below) and you need to make sure that you remain vigilant on who is posting to your media. Putting up photos of youth who are not your own family on a private page is a major No – restrict it to Scouting Pages where it can be moderated and tracked.

What are the rules for Social Media

You can find the rules for Social Media at:

https://nsw.scouts.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Social_Media_Guidelines_Sept2021-update.pdf (Scouts NSW Social Media Guidelines)

https://soz-central.s3.amazonaws.com/products/234/download_file/Digital_guidelines_-_hi-res.pdf (Scouts Australia Digital Guidelines)

*If you need assistance with your Social Media,
please reach out – we are happy to help.*

Steve (Turtle) Wallace

**Deputy Region Commissioner –
Operations & Youth Safety**

steve.wallace@nsw.scouts.com.au

GWS ROVERS



INTRODUCING OUR NEW REGION EXECUTIVE TEAM

Recently, GWS Region held their annual ARP and voted in some fresh faces, who are thrilled to be a part of the 2022 Region Rovers Executive Team!

Chairperson: Ingrid Watt

2nd Castle Hill Rovers

Vice Chairperson: Ryan Kemp

2nd Castle Hill Rovers

Secretary: Natasha Lette

Blacktown Rovers

Treasurer: Maria Carol Villavedra

2nd Castle Hill Rovers

Training Officer: Catalina Gonzalez

Blacktown Rovers

Activities Officer: Benjamin MacCormack

Hawkesbury River Rovers

PR & Internet Officer: Bronte Davidson

Blacktown Rovers

Service: Cameron Letta

Blaxland Rovers

SRC Delegates:

Maria Carol Villavedra - 2nd Castle Hill, **Catalina Gonzalez** - Blacktown
Finn Kennedy - Nepean, **Aiden Bath** - 2nd Baulkham Hills



A Warm Welcome from our new Region Chair

Greetings; I'm Ingrid, the incoming Region Chairperson for the GWS Region Rover Council. I would like to extend a huge thank you to the RRC for voting me in as their Chair, for the coming year.

I'm delighted to have this opportunity and I look forward to collaborating with the rest of the executive team. Although we have not been able to attend as many events over the past few years due to Covid, there is much planned for the next few months!

Many GWS Rovers attended Dragon Skin and a region social night organised by Castle Hill Rover Unit. Additionally, we have the return of Moots to look forward to! Stay tuned - there will be plenty more to come later this year.

Ingrid Watt

VENTURER REPORT

I would like to congratulate **Hannah Wilson** from 2nd Baulkham Hills on achieving her Queen's Scout Award.

This month a number of our Venturers received their **Queen's Scout Award certificates** at a ceremony at Bundilla, attended by Neville Tomkins, Chief Commissioner of NSW. The ceremony was in lieu of a presentation at Government House; a regrettable consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, and complicated further with some notable apologies also due to COVID.

Three of our Venturers along with about 20 Scouts attended **Cuborette** at Cataract Scout Park as Junior Service Leaders. The last (and first) Cuborette was held in 2019 before COVID took hold of our lives. It was good to get back into events; although with the original venue at Camp Ku-ring-gai still flood affected and Cataract the wettest we've seen, this one tested everybody's resilience and commitment. Nonetheless, there was an excellent selection of activities and the Cubs had a great time. All in all, a very successful event and thanks to our Venturers.

Of course, the really big event is **Dragon Skin** over the Easter weekend to be held in Belanglo State Forest. With applications closing the first weekend of April, we have 88 Venturers attending so far, with more to come. This is a pretty good result considering after a two year break, there are very few Venturers who have actually attended the event before. It's also great to see a good turnout of GWS Venturer Leaders, either in the BOOTS (Buckets of On-Track Support) team or for the first time an activity base put together by Matthew Vella, the Blacktown/Holroyd District Venturer Leader. I'll report on the event next month.

Till next month.
Yours in Scouting

Brian Nelson
Region Commissioner Venturer Scouts
brian.nelson@nsw.scouts.com.au



@gwsventurers

**GWSR Venturers are now on
Instagram!**



QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARD

Hannah Wilson

2nd Baulkham Hills

BRAVO



Junior Service Leaders' Subcamp



Dingo's Safety Briefing

SCOUT REPORT

This is my first report as Region Commissioner - Scouts.



First of all I would like to thank Tracey Stopps for the hard work she has put in over the last five years. I know Tracey will excel in her new role.

Tracey has set a high standard and leaves the Scout section in great shape. I will do my best to maintain this and look forward to supporting all the leaders and youth that make Scouting the fantastic community that it is.

The **Jamborette** is rapidly approaching. Don't forget to get your registrations in ASAP. Registrations close on the 6th May. Thank you to the groups that have completed their registrations. Base applications and associated risk assessments are due now.

State Rally is looming (5th-7th August). Get ready for '**Don't Look Back**'. Registrations are now open on the EMS. **Early bird registration closes on the 10th July.**

The Leadership course ran on the 8th - 9th April was a huge success. We had 24 scouts participate who all passed the course. The weather even behaved. A big thank you to the leaders who ran the weekend. It would not be possible to run these activities without your support.

Thanks

Brett (Doc) Nicholas
Region Commissioner Scouts
Brett.nicholas@nsw.scouts.com.au



Scouts



CUB REPORT

The last month has been busy for the Cub Scout section, with our major camp **Cuborette**, or more appropriately "**Cuborwet**".

Congratulations to all Joey Scouts and Cub Scouts who attended, whether that was for one night or two. You braved the mud, the rain, and completely sodden conditions in the spirit of having fun and an adventure, even though it was quite challenging. The smiles on your faces told us all that we needed to know - Scouting is back in action and being outdoors is where we belong!

To the adults who accompanied the Cub Scouts, whether that was transporting, cooking or navigating the mud and activities, thank you from all the Cub Scouts in our Region who appreciate everything that you do to support them, to have these exciting opportunities.

To the Scouts, Venturer Scouts, Rover Scouts and adults who assisted with the running of the event, whether that was through activities, first aid, wellbeing, catering or one of the many other tasks that happened to keep us running.

And finally, a massive thank you to the team who pulled this event off! To Jeff, Dave, Rob, Paul, Steve, Kelly, Tony, Gabie, Helen, Kerryn, Mark and Quentin, thank you for having the courage to push through, regardless of the hurdles that were faced along the way - weather, venue, COVID, fatigue - the list goes on!

Coming up, we have **Konara and Palanee** for those who help support our Joey Scout and Cub Scout sections, at the beginning of May.

I acknowledge we have not run any **Leadership Courses** through the first half of the year - these will hopefully resume in July, and we may have a course that goes ahead at short notice in the month of May, which will be communicated through all adults listed as being attached to the Cub Scout section on Scoutlink.

I encourage any Cub Scouts who are interested in attending **Jamborette** to make sure you have registered, and also to make sure you have spoken with the Scout Unit at your Group so that they know to include you in planning and communications.

Happy Scouting through Term 2!

Emma

Emma Watson
Region Commissioner Cub Scouts
emma.watson@nsw.scouts.com.au



REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM



One of the great attributes we teach in Scouting is resilience. And we have certainly needed it over this last month, as we try to get back to some sort of normality after COVID. We have now had to endure a month of record rain fall, which has certainly put a dampener on so many activities!

While I have been seeing lots of paperwork coming through for all sorts of great events within the Region, it has been followed up with emails advising of cancellations and/or postponements, which is really tough for everyone concerned.

However, there was one event that did go ahead. ***The Region Cuborette!***

And what a great event that was! Massive thanks to Steve Wallace, and the whole organising team, who worked tirelessly; despite so many road blocks being thrown at them, including a change of camp sites less than three weeks out from the event.

Even yours truly was a bit sceptical about the event proceeding!

Moving from Camp Ku-ring-gai to Cataract, the Activity Team had to quickly adapt to change; going from canoeing, to running both the Flying Fox, and the onsite Climbing Wall. Big thank you as always to Quentin Napier along with Tim and Cameron West, who both worked tirelessly over the weekend on the Fox. Likewise, an equally big thank you to the Venturers, who also came along to help out on both the Fox and the Climbing Wall.



There was one stage on the Saturday, when heavy rain stopped all outdoor activities; but to ensure no one missed out, we were able to utilise the indoor Bouldering Room.



**Photos:
Mark Fell**



I must congratulate all the cubs, some of who had never camped before, and despite the weather, showed a great amount of enthusiasm over the weekend.

While I have camped in some pretty heavy weather conditions at Cataract over the years, I have never seen the site so wet. I guess it's a legacy of a month of significant rain.

Take that as being a bit of a heads up to all, heading back to Cataract, for the Region Jamborette in June!



Mark Fell (Dingo)

RC Activities

Assistant Technical Director - Cumberland Gang Show

Deputy Chair – CGS Management Committee

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APPOINTMENTS LIST 21/03/2022 - 11/04/2022

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

CATLIN, Bryn	CrL (Appointed) - P	2nd Castle Hill Rover Crew (Group)
CONNOR, Jonathon	Crew Ldr (Appointed) - P	Blacktown Rover Crew (Group)
DAVEY, Naomi	From ASL To ASL	1st Westmead Scout Troop 1st Cambridge Park Scout Troop
EDWARDS, Simon	From ASL To GL	1st Dural Scout Troop <i>Giwang</i> 1st Dural Scout Group
HORNSTRA, Rachel	Fellowship Member	Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship
LOVE, Damon	CrL (Appointed) - P	1st Blaxland Rover Crew <i>Kalangadoo</i> (Group)
MEPSTEAD, Nathan	From Trainee Ldr (G) To SL - P	1st Dural Scout Group 1st Dural Scout Troop <i>Giwang</i>
NICHOLAS, Brett	From DSL To RC (S)	Holroyd District GWSR
REC, Cassie	From RC (SN) To AGL	GWSR 1st North Rocks Scout Group
STOPPS, Tracey	From RC (S) To SL (Cuboree)	GWSR NSW State Headquarters

RESIGNATIONS

BICKNELL, Courtney	CrL (Appointed)	2nd Castle Hill Rover Crew (Group)
BONITZ, Tara	ACSL	1st Kellyville Cub Pack <i>Darzee</i>
BOXALL, Gregory	AJSL	1st Winston Hills Joey Mob
BRADSHAW, Cassandra	Trainee Ldr (CS)	1st Blackheath Cub Pack
CASTAGNA, Felicity	JSL-P	1st Parramatta Joey Mob
CHING, May	Trainee Ldr (JS)	1st Parramatta Joey Mob
CRAWFORD, Hugh	Crew Ldr (Appointed)	Blacktown Rover Crew (Group)
DAMODARAN, Rebecca	Trainee Ldr (JS)	1st Kellyville Joey Mob
DAVEY, Naomi	CrL (Appointed)	1st Blaxland Rover Crew <i>Kalangadoo</i> (Group)
EWINGS, Abigail	Trainee Ldr (S)	1st Parramatta Scout Troop
GAROFANO, Jesse	Trainee Ldr (CS)	1st Castle Hill Cub Pack <i>Kookaburra</i>
HABIB, Erum	Trainee Ldr (CS)	1st Carlingford Cub Pack <i>Alleena</i>
MILLS, Warwick	SL-P	1st Dural Scout Troop <i>Giwang</i>
NICHOLAS, Brett	SL-DA	1st Greystanes Scout Troop
THOMPSON, Andrew	RA (Rsp)	Blacktown Rover Crew (Group)

Cumberland Gang Show

For those who know the difference between a Reciprocating Saw and a Jigsaw or know the difference between a metal thread screw and wood thread screw, keep reading!

Or perhaps you are the opposite, and shudder at the thought of using any power tool, and regularly check to see if you still have all 10 fingers!

As a Venturer, or even a Rover thinking about a Trade career, this could be a great introduction!

I am talking about the “Gang Show Construction Team,” and where I first became involved with Gang Show.

So, whatever your skill level is, we have just the opportunity for you. Each Saturday at Bundilla, weather permitting, there is a band of very keen workers designing, cutting, drilling, screwing, building and painting anything from a dinosaur to a dunny. Some items are just simple “flats,” while others involve all sorts of moving parts, and even lights!



Basically, all the “other stuff” you see on stage, apart from the cast, is built and painted up by this team.

While the use of the large video screens has reduced the number of sets now required, our creative team have this great ability to make the sets we create integrate with the video behind, creating a real sense of “depth” in what the audience sees and experiences.



Come all day; or just for the morning; or even just for a few hours. Both male and female are most welcome to attend. All equipment is supplied. Just bring your own PPE, sturdy shoes, and perhaps a pair of working gloves. And don't forget your coffee mug and a snack!

For more information you can call...

Bob Lawrence (Construction) on 9639 1669 or

Des Saunders (Painting) on 0407 667 210

Each Saturday 9.00am – 5.00pm at Bundilla.

They would both love to see you!

Mark Fell (Dingo)

RC Activities

Assistant Technical Director

Deputy Chair – CGS Management Committee

M. 0419 264 031

Mark.Fell@nsw.scouts.com.au



**A spectacular new stage show by the
Scouts & Guides of Western Sydney**

PERFORMANCES

Wednesday 6th July	7.30pm
Friday 8th July	7.30pm
Saturday 9th July	2.30pm
Saturday 9th July	7.30pm
Sunday 10th July	2.30pm

Cumberland
Gang Show



BOOK TICKETS

☎ 02 8839 3399

👤 IN PERSON AT THE THEATRE

🌐 RIVERSIDEPARRAMATTA.COM.AU

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Spotlight on... DIRECT BILLING

Scouts NSW will be issuing invoices for the 2022/23 financial year in the coming weeks. Below is a summary of the information that you need to be aware of.

What is Direct Billing?

Direct Billing is the process whereby Scouts NSW issues to all members an invoice for their state fee for the 2022/2023 financial year. Parents are then responsible for either paying their invoice or making a payment arrangement through the Scouts NSW Website.

Who will receive an Invoice?

All uniformed youth members attached to a Group as well as Rovers, Fellowship Members and Region Leaders/Commissioners will receive an invoice for the full amount owing to Scouts NSW. Region Leaders and Commissioners will receive an invoice for 50% of the 2022/23 state fee.

Where and when will the Invoice be sent?

The invoice will be sent for youth members to the parent that is in position 1 (the top position) of the Parents tab in Scoutlink. Young Adult and Adult Members will be sent to the address recorded in Scoutlink (Usually their @nsw.scouts.com.au) email. Invoices should be received in the last week of April.

What are the payment options?

Parents have the option to pay their invoice as a lump sum, in 6 monthly instalments, or in 3 monthly instalments. Payments can be made via Credit/Debit Card or by B-Pay. If a family is not able to pay by these options, they can reach out to Member Services to arrange alternative payment methods.

How much will be charged?

The fee for the 2022/23 financial year is \$250. If a member has outstanding fees from 2021/22, these will also appear on their invoice, as it acts as a statement of **account**.

What if I can't afford this?

Scouts NSW operates the Family Support Fund for families that may need assistance in meeting some or all of the costs of Scouting. For more information on the fund, please visit <https://nsw.scouts.com.au/familysupportfund/> Groups have also been given the option to choose to assist members who may not be able to meet Scouts NSW Payment Criteria. If you are approached by a family and you wish to assist, please reach out to Member Services who will be able to provide guidance.

What about Leaders at the Group and District Level?

Leaders at the group level will be invoiced to the groups in the coming weeks as a single invoice. This will allow the groups to manage the invoice process and pay leaders fees if they choose to. Groups who do not pay leaders fees will need to collect the money off the leaders and then pay the state invoice.

Is State Seeking Feedback?

Scouts NSW acknowledges there were problems with how Direct Billing was rolled out in 2021. A steering committee has been put together to investigate ways to improve the process and make it easier on groups and families. The committee has already made some improvements based on what could be achieved in time for 2022/2023 and is looking to recommend further improvements to the board in the coming months. As part of this process, the committee will be seeking feedback on the 2022 process, and will advise how to provide this in the next few weeks.

Where Can I Get More Information?

You can find more information on the Direct Billing page of the State Website at <https://nsw.scouts.com.au/membership-payments/>

Steve (Turtle) Wallace
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Operations & Youth Safety
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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 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.

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