



The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 513 – December 2022



Merry Christmas



GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION OFFICE

6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills 2153

BUSINESS HOURS: MONDAY to FRIDAY 9AM to 4.30PM

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

Website: www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

**Congratulations to Terry Brooke,
District Commissioner Hills
who was recently recognised as the
Volunteer of the Year at the Castle Hill RSL
Group Sports and Community Showcase.**

Terry has a long history of Scouting at multiple levels spanning over 20 years, including Group, District, Major Events and more.



QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARD



MATTHEW LOVERIDGE

**2nd Baulkham Hills
Venturer Unit**

BRAVO

PEAK AWARDS



JOEY SCOUT CHALLENGE AWARD

Nolan Jin - 1st Carlingford

Gemma Lin - 1st Carlingford

Ada Zhong - 1st Carlingford

Emmalyn Liu - 1st Carlingford

Kaixin Xia - 1st Carlingford



GREY WOLF AWARD

Mitchell Fourro-Huggett - 1st Ermington

Dinula Senevirante - 1st Carlingford

Anna Wilkinson - 1st Oakville

Brodey Shaw - 1st Oakville



AUSTRALIAN SCOUT AWARD

Zoe Suthers - 1st Blaxland

Eric Burakowski - 1st Kellyville

Maxwell Schwalbe - 1st Balcombe Heights

Taneeb Amin - 1st Westmead

**Congratulations to all our youth members
who achieved their Peak Award.**



FROM OUR REGION COMMISSIONER

Hi Everyone,

I would like to start this month, by recognising the GWS Youth Members who were finalists in the **Scout of the Year Awards** held recently. In the **Joey Scout** section, **Ollie Wicks** read over 120 books in a month, to help raise much needed funds for MS research and community education. In **Cubs**, **Varoon Lalithruban** undertook several community activities such as a photo competition, Clean Up Australia Day and Jump Rope for Heart; while **Sophie Penisini** worked with Ronald McDonald House and undertook a Cub Scout Food Drive. In **Rovers**, **Cameron Letta** led a significant service activity, removing Lantana and other weeds from Camp Ku-Ring-Gai. It is amazing what our youth get involved with, both as part of Scouting and in our community and these finalists show the quality of our members here in GWS Region.

Speaking of recognition - now, is a great time to start thinking about the **Adult Recognition Awards**. Once again Neville Henderson is spearheading the Region efforts that recognise those leaders (and we have many of them) that go above and beyond in what they do and deserve to be recognised. Your Group Leader or District Commissioner has the list and I encourage you to have a look and see who you can nominate – I would really like to see every leader nominated in GWS who deserves an award. Please make sure your award nominations are submitted in plenty of time - don't leave it to the last minute, as there is a great deal of proof reading, merging and data entry, that needs to be undertaken.

Terry Brooke is stepping down as District Commissioner (Hills) after 5 years in the role. Terry is a great asset to the organisation and will be missed in this role. Terry will be looking to take on a new role in the new year. I have appointed **Jodie Astley** to the role of **DC (Hills)**. Jodie has a wealth of knowledge and skills, and will continue the great work in Hills. I would also like to welcome **Tracey Stopps** back to the Region Team as a **Region Commissioner – Special Projects**. Tracey will be working on a variety of projects, which we will release more about in the new year.

2023 is going to be a great year for Scouting in GWS Region. The team is working on some great plans for all our members and sections. We are also going to take the time to Regroup, Refocus and Re-energise. Geoff Henderson will be leading several activities in this space, so please keep an eye out for them early in the new year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of GWS Region for the role you play in delivering Scouting. We are truly blessed to have a magnificent region, and that could not be achieved without the effort that you all put in.

From me and my family to you and yours, have a merry and safe Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year. Please take the time to rest and recharge and I look forward to working with you in 2023!

Yours in Scouting

Dave

David Stopps JP
Region Commissioner

David.Stopps@nsw.scouts.com.au

Mobile: 0472 688 766 (04SCOUTS66)



**Region Office will be closed from
Thursday 22nd December, 2022 to
Tuesday 10th January, 2023**

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Wendy Dimmock

GWS Region Office Manager

Season's Greetings!

from  **Scouts**
NSW



The Scouts NSW State Service Centre will be closed from 22 December 2022 to 3 January 2023.

We wish you a safe and happy festive season!

DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER - OPERATIONS AND YOUTH SAFETY

Hi Everyone,

We made it! It has been another great year for Scouting in GWS – even coming back off the last 2 years of some of the most challenging times we have seen in Scouting! We have all been exasperated, challenged, perplexed, downright confused and even a little angry at some point during the year – but we have kept a cool head and have managed to do the main thing we are here for – provide great programs for the kids!

There are a couple of things I need to bring to your attention before you sign off for the year, particularly for Group Leaders and Parent Support Committees.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP

As we approach the end of the year, do not forget to review your ScoutLink for your Group Membership. Is everyone in the right section? Have you approved or rejected all those who should be approved/rejected? Is there anyone you need to resign? Transfer? Appoint? Doing what you can now makes it easier in the new year.

PAY YOUR INVOICE FOR LEADERS

If you have not yet finalised your 2022 leaders invoice, or you still have an outstanding invoice for 2021, now is the time to pay it. GWS Region has been exceptional in making sure that this is done and it would be great to see this continue for the remaining amount.

GROUP CASHBOOKS

A reminder for when we come back in 2023 - we essentially head almost straight into ARP season. As a result, your **group cashbooks close** on the **31st December** this year. Make sure your books are as up to date as possible and then you only need to add the last couple of transactions for the rest of the year. Have them signed off and presented to an auditor as soon as possible.

**All cashbooks are due at the
Region Office on March 1, 2023**

(before your ARP for Rover Crews if this is earlier).

If you need help completing your cashbook or if you are not sure what to do – please let us know as soon as possible. We are more than happy to help but we can only do this when you reach out to us!

SUMMER HALL MAINTENANCE

Even though we are in summer holidays, please make sure you have made appropriate plans to maintain your hall and grounds. Is someone going past occasionally to check the hall? Have you arranged for the grass to be mowed once or twice? Particularly for our *rural* halls, have you carried out any work required for Bush Fires?

FACEBOOK AND SOCIAL MEDIA

A reminder to everyone that our organisation has strong Social Media guidelines that need to be followed. We all love photos and they sell Scouting well, however please make sure that you are only including photos of kids who are ok to be shared in a public setting on Facebook or other Social Media. Parents should not post shots of Scouting unless it is only their own kids or shared from a Group's public page – this is to protect our youth members, including those that may not be allowed to be photographed.

TEAM MOVEMENTS

As you would have read already, there are some movements in the Operations Team, particularly the District Commissioners.

Terry Brooke has stepped down from his role as District Commissioner (Hills), which he has filled for the last five years. During that time, Terry has been a strong advocate for (what he has constantly and proudly proclaimed) the largest district in the Region. I know Terry will be missed by the groups in the Hills District and I would also like to thank him for his input and guidance over this time. Terry is not leaving the Region and I look forward to working with him in the future.

Jodie Astley will be taking on the Hills District moving forward. Jodie and Terry will do a proper handover and Jodie will reach out and say Hi soon!

For **Blue Mountains and Penrith City Districts**, this means the current interim arrangements will continue for now with **Paul Roach** acting as coordinator for Blue Mountains and **Tracey Priest** acting as coordinator for Penrith City. We will touch base in the new year with each of these districts, to discuss a way forward.

Finally, on behalf of everyone in Operations and Youth Safety, I would like to wish you and your families a happy Holiday Season and a safe and prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Thanks

Steve

Steve (Turtle) Wallace
Deputy Region Commissioner –
Operations & Youth Safety
steve.wallace@nsw.scouts.com.au



ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS 2023

It is that time of the year when we should turn our minds towards the Adult Recognition Awards for 2023.

Your Group Leader has been sent a list of eligible people who can be nominated for an award, subject to the following conditions;

- You should not nominate anyone who received an award in 2020, 2021 or 2022 and because of Covid-19, I would suggest that unless someone has done something exceptional, then you should also exclude anyone who received an award in 2019.
- All nominations should be sent to me at neville.henderson@nsw.scouts.com.au in **word format** in case changes need to be made. **Not to be sent to Region or State Office.**
- Citations must be no more than 1500 characters including spaces, comas and full stops. Any citations over this amount will be sent back to the person nominating for correction.

The following are the conditions for nomination;

- A leader or supporter must have must have at least 3 years service to Scouting.
- A leader or supporter who has received a previous award, must have completed a minimum of at least 3 years since that award.
- Special Service Award, Meritorious Service Award, Silver Wattle and Outstanding Service Award only require a citation not a nomination form.
- Silver Koala, Silver Emu, Silver Kangaroo, Distinguished Service Award and National President's Award require a citation and the 2023 nomination form completed (that's the form with 6 questions that need completion). This form is now available and will be forwarded to your Group Leader with any further instructions. If you want to contact me I can email you a copy.
- Nominations must be received by me, by **5.00pm on Friday 27th January 2023**. No late nominations will be actioned. The earlier you get them to me, the better your chances that I can vet them properly; Wendy can put them on the new online awards system and present them to the State Awards Committee.

Should you have any further enquiries do not hesitate to contact me either via email or on 0418 464 296

Yours in Scouting

Neville

Neville Henderson OAM JP
Honorary Commissioner (Region)
neville.henderson@nsw.scouts.com.au
M: 0418 464 296



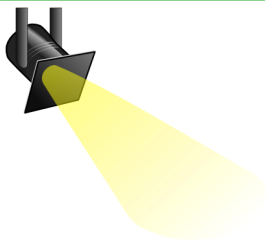
APPOINTMENTS LIST 25/10/2022 - 7/11/2022

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

MCLELLAN, Fiona	From VSL-P To AVSL	1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Venturer Unit 1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Venturer Unit
ROMANIS, Evan	From ASL To SL	1st Balcombe Heights Scout Troop 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Troop
SEARLE, Timothy	From AVSL To VSL-P	1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Venturer Unit 1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Venturer Unit

RESIGNATIONS

MILLER, Drew	CSL-P	1st Rouse Hill Cub Pack <i>Aberdoon</i>
SHEPHERD, Raymond	ASL	1st Greystanes Scout Group
DIAS, Salgaduge Madura	Trainee Ldr (S)	1st Rouse Hill Scout Troop
FREEMAN, Alan	Trainee Ldr (JS)	1st Rouse Hill Joey Mob



Spotlight On....

END OF YEAR REPORTING

The State Support Office will soon be releasing the official ARP Pack for 2023, but I know it will include the following items:

➤ ***P8 - Groups Assets Checklist.***

This is the list of assets your group wishes to insure. This form can be done on paper or online. Online is the preferred option for Scouts NSW.

➤ ***P9 - Overnight Activities/Sleeping in Scout Halls***

If you have Scouting activities overnight in your Scout Hall (including “Awake-a-thons”) then this form needs to be submitted annually for approval to sleep overnight in your hall.

➤ ***P10 - WHS Scout Hall Inspection Check List***

This is the annual inspection of your property/properties. (You need one for each property). Mark any issues you have with your property and your plans to correct it. You will need to include a copy of your AFSS. Once again, this form is available in paper or online and Scouts prefer the online version.

➤ ***AR1 - Annual I&E Statement***

Part of the cashbook, this form captures the information on your Group’s finances from last year and this year. It also includes the statement that must be completed by both your Chairperson and Treasurer as well as your Auditor.

➤ ***AR2 - Annual Recon***

This form is also part of the cashbook and captures the reconciliation of your Cashbook with your Bank Account.

➤ ***AR3 - Fundraising Report***

This form captures the income and expenditure from any fundraising you did this year. It is important, as it helps us meet our reporting requirements to the government departments responsible for Not for Profits.

➤ ***Fundraising Certificates –***

A copy of each Fundraising Certificate should accompany your books when submitted to the Region Office.

Please Remember that we can only accept Financial Records that are submitted as part of the AR1, AR2 and AR3 forms. We need to have comparable forms to match requirements for State.

➤ ***C2 - Office Bearers / C7 - Rover Office Bearers***

This form can be completed in advance, if you know who will form your Group Support Committee/ Fellowship Executive or Rover Unit Executive for the coming year. Otherwise this can be submitted immediately following your ARP.

Support is available from your District Commissioner, the Region Team or the Deputy Region Commissioner (Operations and Youth Safety).

REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM



It is really hard to believe that Christmas is upon us again, in what has been a very interesting and somewhat challenging year on the activities front. While COVID has still been popping up its ugly head on occasions, it has been the inclement weather, particularly with flooding rains, which has been one of the bigger challenges we have all faced this year.

Another challenge has been the changes in the Activity Qualifications, effecting many people, including myself. While I understand the reason for change, I also understand the frustration it is creating for many leaders, who have years of experience in Adventurous Activities, having to again prove their skill set.



Enough negativity, let's finish the year on a positive!

This last month has been particularly good with Adventurous Activities.

I spent a very enjoyable time on a Twilight Canoe Trip up South Creek, from the Windsor Boat Ramp and back, covering just on 10kms. It was so nice just to get out for a paddle, on what was a very balmy evening. The water still has the colour of a chocolate milkshake, and in some areas, particularly closer to the Hawkesbury itself, you could still see damage caused by the recent floods.



While still talking about water, and no it wasn't a "Learn to Swim Class", but Basic Water Rescues. As part of Canoeing, Kayaking and Sailing skills, we need to demonstrate proficiencies in Water Rescues, including, throw ropes, accompanied swims, and towing, as demonstrated in the photo. Big thank you to Dave Noble, State Aquatics Assessor, for running the event. Obviously not in a river, but at the Riverstone Swimming Centre, with a water temperature of around 26C. Skills we all hope we never need to use, but are always good to have!

Our Rock Team was also out and about with another successfully abseiling weekend at Bowen Mountain and Yellow Rock.

As we bring 2022 to a close, may I take this opportunity to thank the whole Activities Team for their effort and resilience throughout the year. This is despite the numerous cancellations we have had to endure, some happening within hours of the activity starting, and in some cases, cancelled halfway through the event.



I would also like to acknowledge Wendy in the Region Office, for her sterling effort, particularly with arranging refunds on cancelled events.

I do hope you all have a wonderful Christmas with your families, and those near and dear to you, and look forward to a great 2023, somewhere out in the Great Backy.

Mark Fell (Dingo)
Region Commissioner Activities
Stage Manager - Cumberland Gang Show
Deputy Chair- CGS Management Committee
Mark.Fell@nsw.scouts.com.au



CUB SCOUT REPORT

2022 has been a big year, as we navigated unseasonable, and at times unfavourable, wet weather, however the Cub Scout section has finished off in a flurry and are eagerly anticipating the potential of 2023.

Our final three Cub Scout Personal Development/Leadership Courses for the year ran in October, November and December, with over 70 Cub Scouts from across the Sydney basin joining us at 2nd Northmead and South Penrith. This means we have had over 100 Cub Scouts attend a GWS course in 2022!

We are planning next year's calendar, and with that we know that activities cannot survive on the same dedicated few to ensure the wheels keep turning. I want to thank the heroes of 2022 who have helped pull off a range of events for us, and welcome others to be part of this in 2023.

On that note, please remember to nominate those around you, who you believe are worthy of recognition in 2023 - everyone deserves to be recognised for their dedication, passion, enthusiasm and engagement, so take a look around you and nominate a member of your Group!

I hope the holiday season brings great joy and merriment - we look forward to more people joining the merry band in 2023!

Emma Watson
Cub Scout Leader

Emma.Watson@nsw.scouts.com.au



SCOUT REPORT

It is hard to believe that 2022 is almost done. Reflecting on our first year returning to "normal" Scouting, it has been a big year, that has from my perspective, flashed past in the blink of an eye. It has been fantastic to be able to get back into outdoor activities and meet face to face once again.

I would like to thank the leaders and supporters for all their hard work throughout the year. I would also like to thank my team for their support and assistance, as I settle into my new role. BRAVO to you all!

I look forward to continuing the momentum we have built in 2022 and make 2023 even better. To all the Scouts enjoy your break and use some of your time to reflect and start planning your awesome adventures in 2023.

Wrapping up 2022, I would like to wish everyone a fantastic Christmas and Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas

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



1st South Penrith Joey Scouts making Ginger Bread Houses with biscuits for Christmas Joanne Chamberlain JSL



VENTURER REPORT

I would like to congratulate **Matt Loveridge on achieving his Queen's Scout Award**. Unfortunately, no word yet on the change of the Venturer peak award following the passing of Her Majesty the Queen. So we have quite a few nominations that have yet to be progressed. As soon as any information becomes available, I will pass it on.

It has been quite a busy time for me since my last report, so I have a few things to catch up on. Our Region Leader, Damon Love was overseas for several months, returning just in time to make a cameo appearance at Waratah on the day he landed back in Australia!

GWS entered a couple of teams of leaders in **The Golden West's Ratskin** event. This is like a Dragon Skin in reverse where the leaders navigate and compete in activities run by the Venturers. This is a great weekend and a good opportunity for us to check out our venue for Waratah.

Waratah 2022 - The Great Escape - was held at Camp Canobolas near Orange. It was well attended considering the considerable distance involved. This year the event was a series of challenges, making full use of The Golden West Region's excellent venue and facilities. We were based at Camp Canobolas, Lake Canobolas and Pinnacle Reserve.

Congratulations to this year's winners:

- **Waratah Award (Overall Winners) and River Red Gum (Best GWS)**
Zoe Ruined the Pen, 1st Blaxland
- **Mountain Devil (Best Out of Region) - Arsonists, 1st Sailors Bay with 2nd Kings Langley**
- **Wollemi Pine Award (Best Waratah Challenge Base) Rogain**

At the debrief, we discussed every aspect of the event and took away a number of ideas for next year. While we had good support from Rovers this year, we rely heavily on our own leaders to get involved. This is an ongoing challenge as we move into the next phase of Scouting following COVID.

Our Youth representatives Breanna and Myles organised a **scavenger hunt game** based in the Sydney CBD. This is the first time we have held an event of this nature and we hope to be able to build on this in future years. Thanks to the Venturers and Rovers who participated this year.

In closing, I would like to thank my team -
Matthew Vella, DVSL Blacktown, Holroyd
Andrew Cross DVSL, Penrith, Hawkesbury and Mountains
Erica Dilworth DVSL Hills, Parramatta
Damon Love RVSL and
Breanna and Myles representing our youth.

Yours in Scouting

Brian Nelson

Region Commissioner Venturer Scouts

brian.nelson@nsw.scouts.com.au



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Life's Short, Eat Dessert First!



FIRST AID COURSES FOR 2023

First Aid Course (HLTAID011 Provide First Aid)

<https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/744>

Sat 25th Mar 2023 (8.30am to 11.30am)

2nd Baulkham Hills Scout hall

Wilderness First Aid skill set

<https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/773>

Fri 31st Mar 2023 (5pm) to Sat 1st Apr 2023 (5pm)

Bundilla Camp Site

First Aid Course (HLTAID011 Provide First Aid)

<https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/745>

Sat 27th May 2023 (8.30am to 11.30am)

2nd Baulkham Hills Scout hall

First Aid Course (HLTAID011 Provide First Aid)

<https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/746>

Sat 26th Aug 2023 (8.30am to 11.30am)

2nd Baulkham Hills Scout hall

Coming to your hall now: The Dry Ice night!

Following the success of our Dry Ice base at the last Jamborette, the Science Team has developed a night for Scouts to show the exciting possibilities of solid Carbon Dioxide -aka CO₂

Did you know?

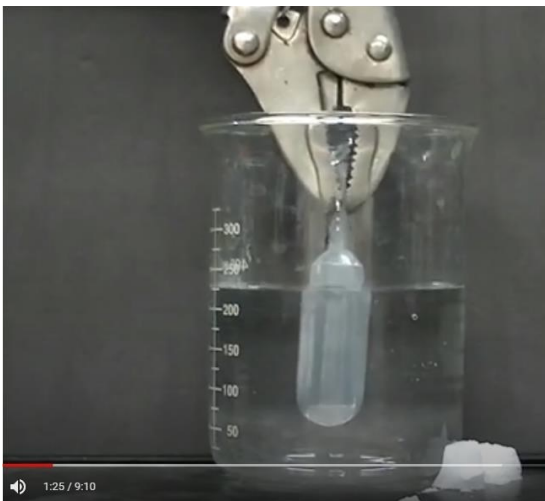
- That dry ice sublimates straight from solid to gas, but wait, we can show you liquid CO₂ under pressure just before it expands 700 times its liquid volume and explodes.
- You cannot extinguish mag wheels with water or CO₂ extinguishers, it just sucks the oxygen out of CO₂ and leaves soot.
- CO₂ is a by-product of alcohol brewing, which we won't be demonstrating or sampling, of course! Alcohol is a flammable liquid and much too dangerous to be left lying around.
- On the night, you could be drinking delicious Carbonic Acid, or foaming at the mouth with Sherbet - Yum....

We are looking for a Group with a few expendable Scouts, to try this explosive night on - before we roll it out to other Scouts. So if this sounds like your Troop, get in contact with John or Andy at john.scoutleahy@gmail.com or andy.jenkinson@nsw.scouts.com.au

Because of the expense of dry ice, the cost for the night will be \$5 per youth (minimum \$50). Suitable for Scouts and Venturers; **but** if you email us before the end of January 2023 - we will put it on for the standard \$2 per youth member!

N.B. The CO₂ we use, has been carbon captured from a chemical process, but being good Scouts, we are recycling it, back into the atmosphere.

John Leahy
Science and Technology Leader
john.scoutleahy@gmail.com



Liquid CO₂



CO₂ in a plastic glove



Frozen bubble



CO₂ Fire Extinguisher



EXPLORE THE WORLD CUBOREE 2023

The 7th NSW “Explore the World” Cuboree is a NSW Cub Scout camp that runs from 29th September to 3rd October 2023 at Cataract Activity Centre.

Cuboree is an action packed, five-day camp, where Cub Scouts from across NSW will make precious memories together. It offers them the opportunity to make new friends, experience new and exciting activities, challenge themselves and learn new and valuable life skills.

**This is not possible without the help and support of Leaders to run this event!
We need you at the next NSW Scouts Cuboree in 2023.**

The total cost of the five-day camp for eligible Service Leaders, Line Leaders and Adult Helpers is \$300. A fee of \$75 is required by 1st January 2023 to secure a place in the Cuboree, with the balance of \$225 to be paid by 31st March 2023.

The total fee includes:

- Activities and entertainment on-site
- Coach travel to and from the Cuboree from within NSW.
- All meals for the duration of the Cuboree.
- Cuboree shirt and hat.

For more information, visit <https://cuboree.nsw.scouts.com.au/>

If you have any questions about Cuboree please email cuboree@nsw.scouts.com.au

Applications are now open! Register today!

We also have a range of roles available that need to be filled to help deliver this great event. If you have ever wanted to be involved in a large-scale event or learn a new skill, then this is a great opportunity. In particular we need a Program Director, Eco-System Managers, Operations Staff and much more. If you are interested, please email cuboree@nsw.scouts.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, 2023

Email : anne.thompson@nsw.scouts.com.au

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

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

