



The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 514 – March 2023



Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct is a personal commitment. Its purpose is to protect all members of Scouting. It applies to all members over the age of 18, regardless of location and role, when engaging with young people and adults in any form. This includes face to face contact and using technology such as on-line formats. Parents and guardians who wish to actively participate in Scouting activities must also follow this Code.

I will set an example that I would wish others to follow.
Therefore, I will:

- Respect the dignity of myself and others.
- Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility.
- Recognise at all times that my words and actions are an example to other members of the Movement.
- Act at all times in accordance with the Promise and Law, Code of Ethics and this Code of Conduct, thereby setting a suitable example for all.
- Not use the Movement to promote my own beliefs, behaviours and practices where these are not compatible with Scouting Principles.
- Adhere to the Scouts Australia Child Protection Policy and provide a safe environment for youth members participating in the Scout Program, their parents or guardians and visitors.
- Report any conduct seen or heard that does not comply with this code of Conduct to the appropriate Scouting person.



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



Called to Higher Service

Robert Bruce Matthews
"Bob"

January 1, 1934 – March 5, 2023

Sadly, we announce the passing of Bob Matthews following a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Bob started his 43 years of active service to Scouting in 1979 as Group Leader with 2nd Guildford Scout Group (1979-1985), then Reserve Leader (Area) with Cumberland Area from 1985 - 1987 before moving back to Group Leader with Guildford Scout Group from 1987 to 2009. From 2009 to 2012 Bob was Group Leader with 3rd Merrylands Scout Group. Bob joined the Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship in 2006 and remained a member until his passing.

You could also find Bob showing his talents as a Backstage member of Cumberland Gang Show for 37 years, assisting with Handprops, Set Painting and as Set Construction Leader. Bob was one of those characters who was behind the scenes and larger than life and will be missed by the Gang Show family.

Bob attended the 14th Australian Jamboree 1985, 16th World Jamboree 1987, 15th Australian Jamboree 1988, 16th Australian Jamboree 1992, 17th Australian Jamboree 1994, 18th Australian Jamboree 1998, 19th Australian Jamboree 2001 and the 22nd Australian Jamboree 2010.

He also participated in the 1st NSW Cuboree in 2003, the 2nd NSW Cuboree 2005, 3rd NSW Cuboree 2007, 4th NSW Cuboree 2011 and the 5th NSW Cuboree 2014 in which he held various positions from Security Officer, Handyman and Activity Leader.

For over 20 years, Bob attended the GWS Region Jamborette as part of the International Team with his good mate, Peter Nickl.

Bob was awarded the Medal of Merit in 1991, Bar to the Medal of Merit in 1997, a Silver Koala in 2004 and the Silver Emu in 2010 for his Service to Scouting.

Bob was farewelled on March 15th, when family, friends and fellow Scouters gathered to share memories and celebrate a life well lived.



We extend our sincere sympathy to Bob's family at this time of great loss.



Youth Program Refresher Workshop

All GWS Region & District Leaders
are invited to attend a
Youth Program Refresher Workshop.

Come along to refresh your knowledge (or learn about) the Youth Program and best practices for programming and delivery at Group, District & Region levels. Our trainers will also demonstrate Scouts Terrain and how that is being used to plan and record youth progression.

Sunday 30th April 2023

1.30pm to 4.30pm

Rotary Hut / Brownsea Hut, Bundilla Scout Camp

Uniform to be worn please.

Afternoon tea will be provided

No cost to attend

Some pre-requisite online learning modules may be required and registered participants will be advised after the registration closing date.

To register, please go to

<https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/912>

Registrations close 5pm, 21st April, 2023

GREY WOLF AWARD



SUMMER SIRISAVATH

1st Blackheath

ANNABELLA WHITE

1st Winston Hills

1,2,3 Woof!

REGION COMMISSIONER

Hello Everyone,
I want to start this month by saying thank you! It has been simply amazing to see our Region band together to support Tony and his family over the last few months. Whether it has been through emotional or physical support, fundraising, coming to our trivia and auction or even just extending well wishes, it has been spectacular and truly shows what Scouting is about at its heart. I am proud to announce that our fundraising efforts have raised approximately \$28,000 which will be used to help make the changes required to Tony's house. I know that the Dent family thank you for your efforts, as do I.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my team – Steve, Mel, Geoff and Matt as well as Tracey Stopps, Meagan Thompson and especially Wendy for the hard work and tenacity that they put in to make Sunday's Trivia and Auction afternoon a success. When I first floated the idea to them, they ran with it without blinking an eye, and that is on top of everything else that they do for the Region!

On the subject of recognition, I hope that planning for your own **Annual Report Presentations** are going well. By now, your financials and paperwork should be with the Region Office and you should have told Wendy and your District Commissioner your ARP date. The Region ARP will be held on the 4th June at Bundilla. More information on this will be provided shortly.

The **Alan Overton Award** is annually presented at the Region ARP and is given to the adult member of Scouting (Leader, Commissioner, Fellowship Member or Adult Helper) who goes above and beyond their role to deliver Scouting in GWS Region. **Nominations** for the 2023 award are now open and will **close on the 15th May 2023**. Nominations should be directed to myself.

Don't forget that **Cuboree 2023** is fast approaching. This is a great opportunity for our Cubs, Scouts (over 13), Venturers and adults to get out camping for 5 days and experience a major NSW event. For more information, visit the official Cuboree website at <http://cuboree.nsw.scouts.com.au>

This month sees Geoff Henderson celebrating his birthday and I would like to say Happy Birthday Geoff.

Finally, I will be on leave for the month of April from the 14th until the 14th of May. In my absence, Matt Thompson will be running the Region with the assistance of my team.

Thanks to everyone, enjoy Scouting and I will see you in May!

Yours in Scouting

Dave

David Stopps JP
Region Commissioner

David.Stopps@nsw.scouts.com.au

Mobile: 0472 688 766 (04SCOUTS66)



GWS Region's Fundraising Trivia event for Tony Dent

Photos: Brendan Richards CSL 1st Kings Langley

DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER - OPERATIONS AND YOUTH SAFETY

Hi Everyone,

The District Commissioners and I met a couple of weeks ago for our first District Commissioners' Conference, where we were able to really discuss what is going on in our Groups and how we can address issues and make things easier. There were a lot of great ideas generated that we will be following up on over the coming months, which we will discuss more as we flesh them out. The next District Commissioners' conference will be held in Term 3.

Three of the ideas that we have put forward and are working on are:

- Making our District Council meetings more relevant i.e. how can we make it more relevant to the attendees by encouraging input and participation.
- A forum for Group Leaders in November to discuss how to grow groups and the coming year.
- Trialling the idea of a one-on-one catchup with each group in the Region. This is where the District Commissioner and a member of the Senior Leadership team get together with a Group Leader or Leader in Charge and have a discussion on how things are going in their group and identifying where support or advice is needed.

At the Chief Commissioner's Council on the weekend, our role in reporting came up and it is now clearly identified that all our Adult Members are mandatory reporters. This means that if we see something, we need to make sure we report it to Scouts NSW State Service Centre using the Know It, Live It, Log It form on the state website. Everything related to misconduct, child abuse, other forms of abuse, bullying etc must be reported to the Youth Protection Team, even if it is not happening at Scouts. We will be doing a run of Know It, Live It, Log It posters for each hall to show these details.

State has secured funding to establish a workshop around the group and how to we build a strong Leadership base and Group Support Committee. We will be running the GWS Workshop on the 4th June at 12:00pm at Bundilla, immediately before the ARP. More details to follow on email.

Finally, along with 8 other people from GWS Region, I attended the recent Youth Mental Health First Aid course that was run at Toongabbie. This is a very important skillset for all leaders, particularly those working with our older youth members.

Our next **Youth Mental Health First Aid** course will be on the **17th & 18th June 2023** and I strongly encourage all leaders to apply. We want to encourage Venturer Scout Leaders to attend this course as the more Venturer Leaders we can have trained in this area, it will allow us to run the Venturer version of this course later this year.

Steve

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



VENTURER SCOUT PEAK AWARD

LUKE KAHANE
JAMES CRUICKSHANK
SAYANI WIJAYATUNGA
1st Balcombe Heights

THOMAS LUKEN
DANIEL OAKEY
1st Blaxland

TEGAN EDWARDS
1st Dural

JASMINE ROWE
1st Westmead

AIDAN HART
MYLES WACIEGA
JOE CLASSIE
2nd Baulkham Hills

JACOB BURAKOWSKI
VALERIA ORTS
1st Kellyville

B-R-A-V-O-O-O!

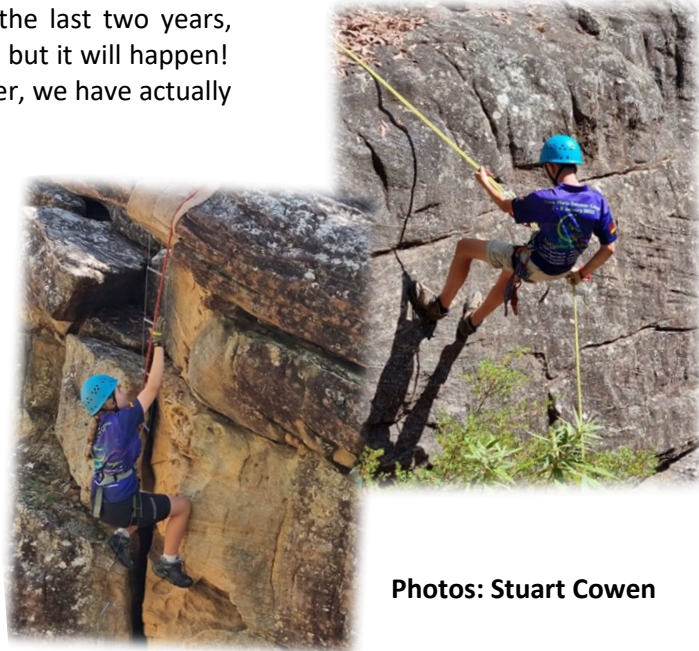


GWS REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM

Getting Adventurous Activities happening again, after the last two years, has been a bit like Shampoo! It won't happen overnight, but it will happen! In saying that, with the recent bout of favourable weather, we have actually had a great month of activities happening within the Region.

Our Rock Climbing team was back out again doing what they do best with an Abseiling Workshop weekend up at Bowen Mountain and Yellow Rock. Always a great time, going down, but it's the going up especially via a caving ladder, that is always a bit more of a challenge, especially on a warm summers day!

A "cooler" activity was another enjoyable Canoe Workshop out on the Hawkesbury River at Windsor. The water has somewhat improved since its chocolate milkshake look a few months back. The day started out with some basic strokes, of which 95% of the time is instruction on that "J" Stroke. Yes, it is a bit of a challenge to learn, but once mastered, it is such a great stroke to know! The day finished off with a short paddle upstream where there is still evidence of the flood damage.



Photos: Stuart Cowen



Photos: Mark Fell



While the water does keep you a bit cooler compared to Abseiling, that hot Australian sun just loves to burn unprotected skin! A good reminder to Slip, Slop, Slap, & Slide (Slide on some sunnies)!

As part of requirements to Canoeing & Kayaking quals, we ran another Basic Water Rescue Day out at Riverstone Swim Centre. A big thank you again to Dave Noble for his support and expertise on the day. I would also suggest the water at Rivero Pool was a few shades clearer than that of the Hawkesbury!



Hopefully we can all keep up the momentum now, get out, and do what we do best, in the great outdoors!

Mark Fell (Dingo)

RC Activities

Stage Manager Cumberland Gang Show

Deputy Chair CGS Management Committee

Mark.Fell@nsw.scouts.com.au

SCOUT REPORT

The year is flying , with the Scout section in full swing with lots of adventurous activities and camps.

Hopefully your patrols and units have been able to make full use of the late run of hot weather with lots of water activities.

Jamborette is rapidly approaching! Make sure you have your registrations in well before the **1st May closing date**. This is a hard date and will not be extended. Don't miss out.

For those of you running **activity bases**, get your base descriptions in ASAP. The form is on Scout Event and needs to be returned by the **1st May**. The **Jamborette passport** needs to be sent to the printer in **early May**. We need to know what bases are planned, so you are on the map and Scouts can find you.

We are running a **Basic Scout Leadership Course (BSLC)** over the weekend of **May 20th & 21st**. This course will meet the requirements for your Scout Peak Award. The BSLC will run at Bundilla and is an overnight activity. Full details on Scout Event. Numbers are limited and **registration will close on the 7th May**.

State Rally will be held over the weekend of **August 4 - 6** this year. Planning is well under way and registrations will open shortly on Scout Event.

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



AUSTRALIAN SCOUT AWARD



COOPER GRAVINA
1st Kellyville

MOHAMMAD AHMED
2nd Castle Hill

BRAVO!

VENTURER REPORT

We started the year with our regular **Venturer Scout Youth Council** meeting to elect new representatives to assist the District and Region Leaders and me to plan the year ahead. **Congratulations** to **Breanna Fisher-Dietsch**, our first rep to be reelected, and **Mikayla Mercieca** to be elected onto the team. Mikayla and Breanna will help Matthew, Erica, Andrew, Damon and me with planning out the Region program for this year. Thank you also to **Myles Waciega** for being on the team in 2022 and all the best in your Rovering.

We were hoping to run an **Outdoor Adventurous Skills** training weekend in mid-March, but have cancelled it due to low numbers of registrations. We'll need to give some thought as to what we should be offering and would welcome your views. The **Leadership weekend** is still being planned but that is a few months away.

It's March and our thoughts now turn to **Dragon Skin**. Registrations are still open and I can see numbers are looking promising, so we'll look forward to seeing you there. I will be coordinating **BOOTS** again, supported this time by **Natalie Castellanos** who has expressed interest in the coordinator role in the future. I look forward to working with her and thank **Stuart Cowen** for his support since I took over the role.

The worst of COVID now seems to be behind us, so our focus now is on rebuilding the program. I think everyone is struggling a bit to get a rhythm again, but I'm very confident we can keep up with an imaginative and rewarding path through Venturers, for which GWS is famous.

If finally got access to a report that lists the recent awards. I would like to congratulate the following twelve Venturers on achieving their **Venturer Scout Peak Award**, going back to September 2022! There is still no word on a future name for the award, so we just have to sit tight for the time being.

Luke Kahane, James Cruickshank and **Sayani Wijayatunga** from 1st Balcombe Heights, **Thomas Luken** and **Daniel Oakey** from 1st Blaxland, **Tegan Edwards** from 1st Dural, **Aidan Hart, Myles Waciega** and **Joe Classie** from 2nd Baulkham Hills, **Jasmine Rowe** from 1st Westmead, **Jacob Burakowski** and **Valeria Orts** from 1st Kellyville.

B-R-A-V-O-O-O!

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



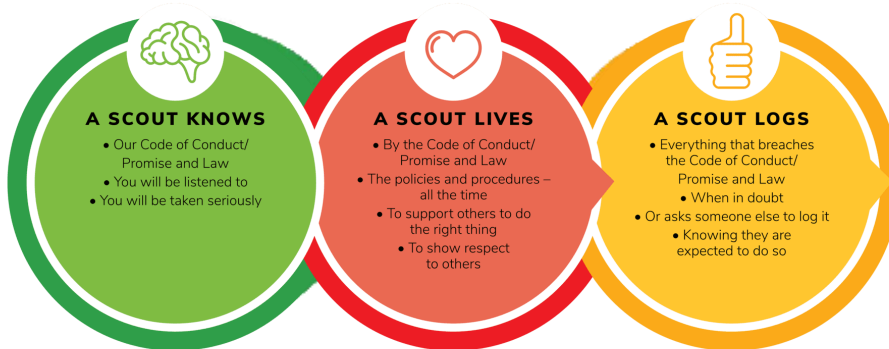


Spotlight On...

Know It. Live It. Log It. Safe fun for All

Scouts NSW is committed to safeguarding youth in our care.

Scouts NSW is committed to creating an environment where all our members feel safe, supported and protected.



Know It.

This means that all members of our organisation know about the Scouts NSW Code of Conduct, and the Scout Promise and Law. Our members also need to know that they will be listened to with respect and that they will be taken seriously.

Live It.

All members live by our Promise and Law and Code of Conduct in respect of all actions they undertake. Our members support each other and always show respect. Our members abide by our policies and our procedures.

Log It.

If you see someone breaching the code of conduct or the promise and law, then we need to Log It. You can log it via the Scouts NSW Website or the Youth Protection Hotline. This also goes for anything that you see or hear and are not sure of.

Mandatory Reporters

As part of our commitment to safeguard our members, all of our Adults are mandatory reporters. This means that if you see something, you need to Know it, Live it Log it as the official channel for reporting matters as Scout Leaders.

Resources

Region will be provided all Scout Groups in the Region with posters to be put in every hall in the Region. The poster includes a QR code so that you can scan it and be taken straight to the portal.

Safeguarding Members Statement

At the start of every meeting, we would encourage all groups to include the following statement as part of the agenda. "Scouts NSW is a safe environment where all members are supported and protected. Our members abide by our Code of Conduct and the Scout Promise and Law. Our members Know It. Live It and Log it."

More Information

If you would like more information, please visit <https://nsw.scouts.com.au/youthprotection/knowit-liveit-logit/>

2nd Castle Hill Cub Unit - Holiday at North Wollongong



Our Cubs had a wonderful weekend in February at North Wollongong Scout Hall. It is a perfect location being only a short walk to beautiful North Wollongong Beach and across the road from Stuart Park. The cubs had a great time exploring the beach and coastline, playing at Stuart park and trying their hand at kite flying.

The hall is managed by South Coast and Tablelands region. Anyone interested to hire can contact sct.region@nsw.scouts.com.au or 02 4274 1099.



Helen Hodge CSL, 2nd Castle Hill Cub Unit

Creative DIY Diorama Project Competition

Currently we hold a Creative DIY Diorama Project competition event **'I Care for My Ocean'** to promote SDG 14 .

Use Scout creativity to explore and interpret connections between human activities and the health of our oceans, and inspire people to take positive actions to protect the ocean and to sustain its beauty and harmony

Please see adjacent poster for more information and how to enter details.

Entries close @ 5pm April 16, 2023

I would like to encourage more Scouts to participate.

Jenny Huang CSL-P
Western Sydney BLIA Cub Unit



2023 My Ocean – “SDG14” Three Acts of Goodness Creative DIY Diorama Project

1. Background:

More than 3 billion people around the world depend on the ocean for their livelihoods, and around 80% of trade is carried through the ocean. Yet our excessive consumption of the ocean's resources is harming it. Protecting the ocean and life below water is more urgent than ever. In addition to environmental conservation, spiritual conservation is even more important. Only when our mind is at peace can our physical world be at ease. Through the Three Acts of Goodness "do good deeds, speak good words, and think good thoughts" we aspire to spiritual purification and "coexistence and interdependence" with nature.

2. Objectives:

To create an original piece of DIY artwork, in the form of a box diorama, inspired by the theme "I care for my ocean". Use your creativity to explore and interpret connections between human activities and the health of our oceans, and inspire people to take positive actions to protect the ocean and to sustain its beauty and harmony.

3. Organisers:

Hsing Yun Education Foundation, Fo Guang Shan Nan Tien Buddhist Temple Parramatta, Nan Tian Chinese School of Sydney, BLIA Scouts Western Sydney

4. Entries open: From now until 16 April 2023 at 5pm AEST.

5. Categories:

Individuals and Teams (5 members or less). Open to all age groups including children and adults

6. Specifications:

Dimensions: No larger than 400x200x180mm. All media and ingredients may be used. The completed work must be suitable for outdoor exhibition. Use of recycled materials i.e. old shoe boxes and other boxes, recycled bottles, bottle caps, buttons, paper rolls etc is strongly encouraged.

7. Submission of entries:

Step 1: Please fill out the form, attach a photograph of your artwork and a photograph of yourself and email fgsibaap.sdg@gmail.com (Email subject: 2023 My Ocean Creative Diorama).

Step 2: Submit the box diorama to Nan Tian Chinese School of Sydney, 22 Cowper St, Parramatta NSW 2150 Australia. Tel: 02 9893 9390 WhatsApp 0467749456.
(Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday 9AM – 5PM)

8. Notification of selected entries:

1. Announcement will be made by 19th April on Nan Tien Buddhist Temple Parramatta's Facebook page. All selected entries will be exhibited at the Buddha's Birthday Multicultural Festival on 22-23 April 2023 at Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour. The Award Ceremony is scheduled to be held on 23 April 2023
2. Awards: All participants will receive an electronic certificate of participation. Selected work will be awarded with a gift.

1st BLACKHEATH'S LUCKY FIND!

A piece of Lithgow's history has been discovered under 1st Blackheath's Scout Hall, with crates of Lithgow Soft Drink bottles being found during a working bee.

The local soft drink company dates from at least the 1950s, with bottles originally sold in the Lithgow and Mudgee areas. After acquiring Cottees Soft Drinks in 1960 they began to distribute down to the Penrith area as well.

1st Blackheath has been selling the bottles to raise funds for World Scout Jamboree, with those who grew up in the area keen to get their hands on the mementos.

Ethan Fitzpatrick holds one of the crates of Lithgow Soft Drink bottles that were discovered during a Scout working bee.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Science at Hume Camp, Berrima

'Crispy' of Bargo responded to the last article in the Bulletin about Dry Ice experiments by inviting us to their district camp in February. Karl Humphreys and I were there Friday night and Andy Jenkinson joined us on Sunday.

What to take for two days?

Water Rockets are always popular and we got Crispy to look after them. He was quiet taken by the simplicity of the launcher and range of the rockets. Could I give him the plans to make one? Well not really, I just take a bottle neck to the hardware store plumbing section, and play with the different fittings until I get what I need. (I may have to make another one and note the part numbers.) By the end of Saturday each rocket had at least one fin missing, so I bought out the Pop Rockets Sunday morning.



Laser Reflect was set up on the eastern verandah. Ever though it was in the shade, the glare made it difficult to see the Laser beam and the wall was too uneven to guide the beam to the target, so the Cubs settled on trying to get the beam on the target directly. One group of Scouts actual hit the target with one reflection!



Karl's Radio Base consisted of a number of aerials and Army portable radios. The scouts were most interested in the Satellite Tracking Antenna and the computer showing the location of the sat. being tracked. Karl held some interesting discussions with Venturers and Leaders, which may result in a Foundation Radio Licence course being held in their Region, and possibly a Radio Base at this year's JOTA in October.



Microwave Experiments. I took this activity inside the hall near a power point and had a steady stream of scouts all Saturday. The expanded and gooey marshmallows were eagerly scooped up and we managed to light up a Plasma inside the Pyrex bowl for the Venturers. Each Cub & Scout got to take home a nuked CD and thermal paper activated signature.

Dry Ice (solid Carbon Dioxide) activity was demonstrated by Andy on Sunday inside the hall. He had small and larger groups who all seemed to be attentive and quiet. The process of showing the liquid phase of CO₂ by increasing the pressure is novel to me, and an example of things we demonstrate in the

Science Activity that may not be understood now, but could 'click' in their minds in the future.

I wonder how many will remember that Lime Water (CaOH) is a test for Carbon Dioxide gas; or making sherbet from Citric Acid, Bicarb and strawberry jelly crystals; or will it be just a memory of the delicious taste and fizz in the mouth?

Other Scout Bases included Tennis Ball Catapult Compass and Map course, Wide game at night of 'Find the Commando' for the cubs, and for a warm summer camp: Rafting, Canoeing and swimming in the river.



Karl and I were comfortably accommodated and well fed, so appreciated that.

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

HARMONY DAY - 21ST MARCH

Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

It is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common.

The central message for Harmony Day is that 'everyone belongs', reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians.



The Harmony Day badge may be worn on the uniform as an Event Badge (right chest, opposite pocket) until the end of June 2023.

Please note that only one Event Badge may be worn at any time.

Price \$1.80 from the Scout Shop

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Life's Short, Eat Dessert First!



7TH - 10TH APRIL, 2023

THE OCEANS WAVE

PENROSE STATE FOREST

Online applications close on March 26

All payments must be received and applications fully completed by midday 1st April, 2023.

Questions? Email Dragon Skin

info@dragonskin.nswscouts.com.au

THE BULLETIN

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

Submissions are to be made by the 10th of each month and may be edited for clarity or to fit available print space.

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