



The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 519 – September 2023



Scouts Australia - New South Wales Branch
Greater Western Sydney Region



MR ROSS GROVE
Region President

MR DAVID STOPPS JP
Region Commissioner

MRS DEBORAH HOWLETT
Region Chair

Request the pleasure of your company at the
2023 GWS Region Awards Presentation

NBC Sports Club (Northmead Bowling Club)
166 Windsor Road, Northmead

Sunday 29th October 2023
2:00pm - 5:00pm

This event recognises those members of GWS Region who have provided service above and beyond to the Scouting community, and have been recognised with a National Adult Recognition Award, Long Service Award or local recognition through a Region Commissioner's Citation or the Alan Overton AM Award.

This year, the awards ceremony will be held in a social setting.
Food and Drink will be available at club prices.

Dress code: Scouts - Full Uniform including award decorations
Other attendees - Smart casual

Register now at <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/1189>

Closing date: Monday, October 16, 2023

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



GWS REGION JOTA/JOTI For Joeys, Cubs and Jnr Guides

**Glenbrook Scout Hall
4 Moore Street, Glenbrook**

Saturday October 21, 2023

Session 1: 9:00am to 12:30pm

or

Session 2: 12:30pm to 4:00pm

**Cost: \$7 includes sausage sandwich
& a drink for lunch plus a badge.**

For decades, the annual Jamboree On The Air - Jamboree On The Internet (JOTA-JOTI) has brought together millions of Scouts and Guides around the world to connect through the internet and radio while building friendships, learning new skills, and discovering the international dimensions of Scouting/Guiding.

Activities, besides talking on the radio and internet, will include Morse Code, electronic kit assembly, secret codes, and other fun stuff.

Register now at

<https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/1124>

Hosted by

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club



GWS and Hume JOTA/JOTI Camp for Scouts

**Glenfield Scout Activity Centre
2 Cambridge Ave, Glenfield**

Friday 20th October, 2023

to

Sunday 22nd October, 2023

Activities being planned include:

- Obstacle course
- Fox hunt
- Morse code
- Battleships
- Orienteering/Geocaching
- Passing a message to another JOTA/JOTI group over the radio
- Electronic kit building
- Internet games and activities
- Internet group chats (Q&A sessions) with other Scout Groups across Australia and the Globe

Pricing Details

Scouts/Venturers Camping, self-catered - \$50.00
Leader/Adult Helper/Rover Camping, self-catered - \$25.00
Leader/Adult Helper/Rover Camping, catered - \$65.00
Scout/Venturer Day Visit - \$25.00
Leader/Adult Helper/Rover Day Visit - \$25.00

Registrations close on Friday October 13 (12am)

<https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/1081>



FROM OUR REGION COMMISSIONER

Hi Everyone,

GWS Region has always had a strong presence at the Scout of the Year Awards and this year is no exception! I would like to congratulate all the finalists and winners in the 2023 awards that were presented at Pennant Hills on the weekend, but would particularly like to congratulate two members from our Region.

Zoe Suthers recently from 1st Blaxland (before moving out of the Region) was named as a Finalist in the Venturer Scout section of the Awards for her work in raising money for the Kids Cancer Project. As well as this Zoe researched and donated her hair to make wigs for kids in Australia with hair loss. Zoe exceeded her targets in these areas!

Oliver 'Ollie' Wicks from 1st/2nd Merrylands and 1st Balcombe Heights was named the Joey Scout of the Year for his work in raising money for MS through the MS Readathon. Since starting school, Ollie has read over 500 books and raised over \$1000 for this cause.

Both Zoe and Ollie come from Scouting families with a strong history in our Region and both are strong representatives of the skills, community ethos and leadership that Scouting builds in our young people.

Our GWS Region Awards presentation will be held on the 29th October at the Northmead Bowling Club. I look forward to seeing you all there as we celebrate not only the people who received Adult Recognition Awards this year, but also those who have reached milestones in long service or have gone above and beyond at a local level to ensure that we keep delivering the Scouting Program.

On a sad note, I would like to extend my condolences to Frank Barr and the family after his wife Judy passed away earlier this month. Many people will remember Judy for her work in the Carlingford and then the Blue Mountains areas, particularly as a Venturer Scout Leader and District Venturer Scout Leader. Judy was a wonderful compassionate person who will be missed.

It is now just a few short weeks away until the Cub Scouts leave to attend Cuboree at Cataract Scout Park. My spies tell me that they are going to have a great adventure exploring a number of exotic locations such as the Savannah, Desert, Oceans and Space. I hope all our Cub Scouts enjoy the experience and I thank all the leaders involved in delivering this great event, not just on the GWS led Polar Base and in the Cub Scout Units but in all aspects of Cuboree.

I finish this month with a timely reminder that all members of the organisation over the age of 18 MUST have completed the mandatory e-learning modules Child

Safe Scouting and WHS for Scouting. This includes all Leaders, Rover Scouts, Fellowship Members and Adult Helpers. Those who do not complete this in a reasonable period of time will have their membership terminated after being reminded. It is important we all work together to ensure we complete this and remain a safe institution for our members.

Thanks for all that you do for our Region and I will see you on the Scouting Trail.

Dave

David Stopps JP Region Commissioner

David.Stopps@nsw.scouts.com.au

Mobile: 0472 688 766 (04SCOUTS66)



DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER - TRAINING

In June, every member received an email from our Chief Commissioner about the **Mandatory Modules** and updating them now, even if you had completed them 12 months ago. This was to update everyone to the new Modules and prepare for the change to every 2 years compliance.

It also included, that every Adult Supporter had to complete the modules. It will now be a requirement for any New Adults to complete these units within a short timeframe, so as to attend or participate in any Scouting activity.

In the National News that came out, there is a presentation called **Youth 1 statements**, this will help with the introduction to section activities, and I recommend all Leaders should make themselves aware of the statements, and use them.

We will also need to be aware the Child Safe is not just a Australian Scout issue, and that on the World Stage it has now produced "**Safe from Harm Scouting**". Every Leader will need to do this - more information about how this will be completed will be coming out soon. This will also need to be completed by all New Leader applicants before they can become a Member.

Rovers are **not exempt** from any of these updates and should get these completed when they are given the opportunity to do so; it now becomes a requirement of membership for EVERYONE over 18.

We are coming to the end of the Training Calendar with only October courses left for 2023. Next year the courses will be at Pennant Hills, and hopefully will be published on the State Calendar by the end of October. If you are not sure you are ready, we will be sending out the prerequisites in October to all Group Leaders/LICs.

Tony Dent

Deputy Region Commissioner

Youth Safe Advocate

Region First Aid Team Leader

M. 0424 449 587

Tony.Dent@nsw.scouts.com.au



DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER - OPERATIONS & YOUTH SAFETY

Hi Everyone!

Yes, I am still here and busy with Scouting!

A couple of things from the Operations Team...

Youth Safety

One thing that has become clear to me over the past few months, is that as a Region, there is a lot of room for growth within our youth safety teams and appointments. After speaking with some of the State Team, I will be working over the coming month to set up a network - starting with teams of our Youth Safe Advocates, Member Support team as well as some of the other appointments that affect this area. This will enable us to build on each other's skills, understand our roles better and embrace training opportunities.

Region Awards Presentation

You will see that the Region Awards Presentation is advertised elsewhere in the Bulletin. This year sees us trialling a new format halfway between the dinners of old and the presentation format of the last couple of years. We have had a lot of feedback, that people want a social setting as well as the formal presentation of these awards. I hope to see you there and catch up with many of you, as we celebrate the achievements of our peers.

Activities/events permission forms

Just a reminder that **all activities/events** away from the hall need to have a **permission form**, be that Operoo, e-permission or an old school E1 completed, for every person attending the activity, regardless of who they are. Please make sure you are completing them and storing them in an appropriate format.

Finally, a friendly reminder..

Over the past few months, I have seen a number of instances where people have not acted in the best manner available, this has included raised voices, harsh e-mails or unwarranted put downs of other people. If you experience any of these situations, we have a process called **Know It, Live It, Log It** to report all forms of bullying or harassment. It is available on the Scouts NSW Website homepage as a big red button.

We do need to remember that we are all here for the good of the kids and the movement, even if sometimes our actions are not seen as such - there is usually a good reason behind them.

Remember...Respect is a Boomerang!

That's about it from me for this month. I will be at Cuboree with the Operations team and then will be back on deck full time.

Steve (Turtle) Wallace
Deputy Region Commissioner
Operations & Youth Safety

steve.wallace@nsw.scouts.com.au



JUDITH ANN (JUDY) BARR **24th August 1944 - 31st August 2023**

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Judy on Thursday August 31, 2023 after a long illness.

Judy joined the Scouting Family on October 13, 1993 when she began her training as a Venturer Scout Leader with 1st Jerrabomberra Scout Group. In 1997 she transferred to 1st Hazelbrook Venturers until 2007 when she took a break until 2010. She agreed to take on the role as District Venturer Leader for Blue Mountains District until 2017 when she became ill and transferred to Honorary Leader (Region).

Judy earned her Venturer Wood Badge in 1997. She received the Silver Arrowhead Award in 2003, Silver Wattle in 2011 and Silver Koala in 2016. During the period 2011 to 2019 she helped a large number of Trainee Leaders through their training courses and was well respected in, not only Blue Mountains District but also the Greater Western Sydney Region.

We extend our sincere sympathy to her husband Frank and their family & friends at this sad time.



Dear GWS Region

Thank you for your support and kindness and for attending Judith's Celebration of Life. It meant so much for us to see you there.

We appreciate our Scouting Family's support during this difficult time in our lives.

Please see below the live stream for those unable to attend, it is available for viewing via the internet until around October 12.

<https://kerrylinegarfunerals.com.au/client/?nid=96e94e08-4fd5-4b89-ad34-03bb067b885d>

Once again, many thanks.

Kind regards

Frank

Frank Barr OAM
Honorary Leader (Region)

VENTURER REPORT

Just a quick update from the Venturer section.

Over the past month, our very own Hills District Venturer Leader successfully ran the very first **District Venturer Leadership Activity** at Castle Hill. 10 Venturers attended and learned a lot from the theoretical and practical aspects of the day. In attendance were Venturers from Balcombe Heights, Castle Hill, Ermington and even Georges River. Given the success of this activity, there is potential for expansion into other Districts.

In other news, I am pleased to announce that registrations for **Waratah 2023: Extraction Point** has officially been opened. This year's event will be based in the Greater Sydney area, with teams having to find and decode clues over the course of the weekend in order to determine the final location of the extraction point. This year's Waratah Committee has been working hard to make this Waratah unforgettable, so please share with any Venturers you know (or Leaders who may be interested in helping). Registrations can be found here: <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/1144>

Registrations close on Friday, 20th October 2023.

If there are any Venturer-related inquiries, please feel free to reach out to me!

Yours in Scouting,

Damon Love

Acting Region Commissioner - Venturers
damon.love@nsw.scouts.com.au



ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS 2024

Hi All,

It is that time of the year when you should be considering a leader, committee member, supporter or adult helper for nomination in the 2024 awards. I will shortly have a list from State Office of eligible members and will send around to your Group Leaders.

Just as a matter of interest, in the past 15 years, our members have received 928 awards, an average of 62 per year; however, in the past 11 years we have received 779 awards, an average of 71.

The number of nominations has dropped off in 2022 and 2023 and I would ask that you consider who is carrying out an above expected role - please think who you would like to reward with an Adult Recognition Award.

If you would like to nominate someone but are unsure of what to do, drop me an email and I will give you a hand.

Neville Henderson OAM JP

Honorary Commissioner (Region)

neville.henderson@nsw.scouts.com.au

GREY WOLF AWARD



KYRA LIM

2nd Castle Hill

Bravo!



YOUR SCOUT HALL IN THE SUMMER MONTHS

Next time, you are at your hall, have a good look around...

Your hall is the physical heart of your Group. It shelters you; it provides a place to plan and do activities etc. You store your gear there and use it as your base of operations.

What would you do if it was gone?

As we have seen over the past few years, our Region is very susceptible to major weather events and natural disasters, particularly in the summer and autumn months. Now is a great time to plan and start making sure your hall and surrounding property is ready for the summer!

Some things to look at (every hall is different) but may include....

- Cleaning your gutters of leaves and twigs.
- Installing metal gutter guards.
- Repairing damaged or missing tiles on the roof.
- Installing fine metal mesh screens on windows and doors.
- Enclosing the areas under the hall.
- Repairing or covering up gaps in external walls.
- Attaching a fire sprinkler system to the gutters.
- Keeping lawns mowed and gardens well maintained.
- Cutting back trees and shrubs overhanging buildings.
- Cleaning up fallen leaves, twigs and debris around the property.
- Ensuring water hoses are long enough to reach around your hall.
- Running a Fire Safety Night with your Group members. Do they know what to do? Do you have an Emergency Evacuation Plan and designated Assembly Point?
- If you have a pool, tank or dam, put a Static Water Supply (SWS) sign on your property entrance, so firefighters know where they can get water (with thanks to the Rural Fire Service).

If you have any property questions or queries, reach out to Jodie Astley or Elena Lombardi (our Region property people). It would also be great to see some photos of you preparing for summer, shared in our Facebook Group!





GWS REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM

I can feel it! There is warmth in the air, plus it is getting lighter earlier in the morning!
...Well at least until Day Light Savings kicks off! "Let's bring on Summer"!

While more conducive to the warmer weather, I spent a very enjoyable time on a canoe trip from Windsor, down towards Cattai, and return. We covered about 16km in total. Yes, we do lots of "canoe trips" as such, so no big deal. Unless of course you do it all at night, and even better, under a near full "super" moon! So with five canoes, and a bunch of eager Scouts & Venturers, we headed out just on dusk, on a beautiful clear Friday evening, with a slight outward going tide. I must admit we sometimes cheat a bit on these trips. Do we go upstream or downstream? It all depends on which way the tide is going...! With the weather warming up we are planning to do a few more of these trips, so keep an eye out on the EMS on the Region Website!



It doesn't get much better than this!

Photo: Mark Fell

I am after some feedback! A few years back the Activities Team through Region, purchased a couple of PLBs (Personal Location Beacons), which were available for use by all, for a small fee. More so for groups heading out into the more 'remote' areas, and predominantly on overnight hikes. Both these units have now passed their use by dates, and I am keen to see if people would still use them, if available. I know there are a number of groups and also individuals, who have their own units. While phone coverage has very much improved with 5G, and some people are using devices like SPOT, a mobile phone should not be considered as a PLB! Please drop me an email if you have any thoughts or comments.

In the meantime, I must charge up my headtorch, in readiness for that next adventure.
That night paddle was just awesome!

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





FIRST AID COURSES FOR 2024

All courses to be held at 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Hall
25 Jasper Road, Baulkham Hills

HLTAID011 Provide First Aid - a half-day intensive course, equivalent to HTLAID003, Senior First Aid. Suitable for Work Cover, Leaders, Rovers, Venturers & Scouts older than 14 and a pre-requisite for Wilderness First Aid. All participants must be over 14 years of age. All applicants will need to complete a pre-course work and online quiz before attending. <https://www.hatraining.com/quiz/>

- 2nd March 2024 <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/1145> Registrations open 1st October, 2023
- 25th May 2024 <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/1146> Registrations open 1st February, 2024
- 3rd August 2024 <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/1147> Registrations open 1st May, 2024
- 26th October 2024 <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/1148> Registrations open 1st June, 2024

Wilderness First Aid skill set

From 6pm Friday 22nd March 2024, to 5:30pm Saturday 23rd March 2024

Registrations open 1st October 2023 <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/1149>

SISOFLD004 Provide First Aid in Remote Locations, is very useful to those who will be providing first aid in remote settings within the outdoor recreation sector. This may include those undertaking a leadership role in outdoor recreation activities, such as bushwalking or other guided activities in remote locations. This may also include those working for private outdoor adventure companies, volunteer organisations, not for profit organisations or government agencies. This unit is delivered through the First Aid RTO H&A Training.

SIXEMR002 Coordinate Emergency Response: This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to coordinate a response to an emergency situation. The unit focuses on assessing emergency situations, implementing an emergency action plan, and coordinating a prompt and effective response. This unit applies to individuals designated as safety officers during a specific indoor or outdoor activity at locations such as camp sites, training areas and other outdoor sites, or Activity Guides.

Participants will need HLTAID011 Provide 1st Aid as a prerequisite for this course and come equipped for an overnight camp with full pack and food. Full details available on the website.



Scouts in Action is designed to provide Leaders with themed program resources that are held on one web site and accessible 24/7, 365 days of the year. Busy Leaders sometimes need to be able to grab a program that will be based around their sections award scheme and Scouts in Action does just that!

This year we are focusing on all things Solar, from looking at solar energy and how we can harness it to reduce the strain on fossil fuels and continue Scouting's support for the Sustainable Development Goals.

From making a hotdog cooker out of a Pringles container to learning about solar cells and using the power to race a toy car.

There are lots of experiments and possibilities to get us all thinking about how we can become Solar Scouts!

Special Interest Areas: This years theme of Solar Scouts in Action will provide opportunities for all youth members to PLAN>>DO>>REVIEW>> one of more Special Interest Area (SIA') for their achievement pathways. Personal Growth or STEM and Innovation are just two that your youth members can work on.

Check out the website for full details and to register your Scout Group or Unit.

<https://www.scoutsinactionmonth.com/>

Badges (as pictured above) are available at \$4.50 each



November to Remember

INFINITY ∞ 23

NSW FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

BECAUSE THE BONDS OF
SCOUTING NEVER END

Formal Dinner, Guest Speaker,
Campfire and Activities

4-5 November 2023 | Cataract

Camping, caravans,
motorhomes, bunkhouse and
private pod accommodation
available

For more info:

Stacy.kempton@nsw.scouts.com.au

Infinity 2023 - November to Remember (NSW Fellowship Gathering)

0900 November 4, 2023 - 1600 November 5, 2023

Cataract Activity Centre
Baden Powell Drive, Appin

**\$90 Early Bird, includes catering, camping and some activities
(adventurous activities and alternate indoor accommodation will be extra)
Open to all adult members – Fellowship, Rovers and Leaders**

Infinity 2023 is the first of a new social event run by the NSW Scout Fellowship Council. It is aimed at bringing all adult members of Scouting together to meet new mates, reconnect with old friends and enjoy some time in the outdoors. It is open to all Fellowship, Rovers and Leaders.

Activities on the weekend will include:

- Bushwalking
- Scenic driving
- History / nostalgia tours of the site
- Campfire
- Scouts Own
- Wide game
- STEM activities
- Service project
- Adventurous and other onsite activities as an optional extra (additional fees may apply).

Saturday night will include a formal Scouting dinner, with guest speaker Christopher Holcroft. Chris is an acclaimed author and current Venturer Scout Leader in South Metropolitan Region. The dinner will be followed by a traditional campfire lead by our performing arts fellowships.

Catering from Saturday lunchtime until Sunday lunch time, is included in the camp fee along with all activities and camping fees, unless stated otherwise. Accommodation options include camping, BYO camper van, BYO motorhome or onsite individual and group bunk room accommodation. Onsite bunk rooms and individual suites will attract an additional fee.

This event will be family friendly to ensure maximum inclusiveness, with adult members welcome to bring their children along under their supervision. In keeping with Branch Policy, this will be an alcohol-free event, however participants are encouraged to bring their own non-alcoholic beverages along.

Bookings are now open: <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/1139>

We look forward to welcoming Fellowship Members, Rovers and Leaders from across NSW and the ACT to Infinity 2023. It will be a November to Remember!

Stacey Kempton

Marketing and Communications Officer – NSW State Fellowship Council
Camp Chief - NSW Fellowship Gathering - Infinity 2023

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.

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

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