



The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 471 – December 2018



Merry
Christmas

GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION OFFICE

6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills 2153

BUSINESS HOURS: TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY 9AM to 3.30PM

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FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER

Hi All - that season is with us once again! I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all of you and your families a very happy Christmas and New Year. To all those that are off to Jamboree have a great adventure - enjoy yourself and stay safe.

To all the families that are off on vacation also have a great time - looking forward to catching up in 2019!

I had the pleasure to go out to Oakville on a couple of occasions; the first one was to attend the **Queen's Scout** presentation for **Chloe Harris** whom I have had the pleasure of knowing for around 8 years and I have watched her grow into a wonderful, intelligent, young, lady. Chloe was also made the School Captain for next year.

The second visit was to present three young Joeys their Promise Challenge Badges. Yes, I know I do not normally present these but I was available!

The Joeys were Jack Allen, Anna Meddens and Cooper Budin; it was a great night in the Park at Hawksbury. BRAVO O O to you all.

As many of you may be aware - the fees for next year have gone up by a dollar per term; sorry for this but it was out of my hands - but let's not forget that the government is helping with fees with **the Active Kids rebate** - don't forget to apply.

Please do not forget that the nominations for next year's Adult Recognition Awards are due soon. You need to email the citations to Neville Henderson, his email is neville@greaterwestscouts.com.au (they must be emailed in Word format just in case they need to be adjusted).

To all the Group Leaders and Leaders in Charge - you should have received an email from Geoff Henderson DRC asking you to Register for the **Vision weekend** being held in February 2019. Please go on line and register; I expect every group to be represented. This weekend will help you set up for the year ahead.

All groups need to be aware of the condition of their hall; if you hire your hall out, please check to see that it is up to scratch. If your hall has any thing wrong such as loose steps or floor boards etc. please fix them or at least barricade them off, so that they cannot be accessed.

Also remind any one that hires your hall - that Scouts Australia has a **No Alcohol Policy** which covers all Scout halls. If they cannot conform to this policy - then do not permit them to hire. Ask the questions, get the hire forms filled in correctly.

We have to conduct an audit early next year on the all the halls in the GWS Region and report on their condition. You will find out more about this at our Vision weekend.

Once again, from my Family and I and my whole Team, have a safe and happy Christmas.

Yours in Scouting

David Stopps

Region Commissioner

Email: rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au

GWS & TGW REGION OFFICE

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR CLOSURE

**Please take note that the Region Office
will be closed from**

**December 21, 2018
until
January 17, 2019 (inclusive)**

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

Kim and Wendy



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas..... Merry Christmas everyone!

Another fantastic year in Scouting, topped off with the Jamboree in less than a month's time!!!! Where has the year gone?

This month I wanted to focus on preparation for 2019; as they say 'time waits for no-one' and whilst I am looking forward to a well deserved break (away from selling sausages at Bunnings), I am also looking to a quieter period to finish my planning and preparation for the 2019 year in Scouting. ***If you fail to plan, plan to fail.*** We have big opportunities ahead of us in Greater Western Sydney, and I'm excited for what we have planned in the new year.

Here is my Scouting top 5 for January:

1. Visiting AJ2019. I'll be making the trek down to Tailem Bend for 'Celebration Day' and will be taking the opportunity to visit as many GWS Troops as I can. Thanks to all the leaders at AJ2019 for supporting our kids and hope you have a great time.
2. Finalising plans for our Vision 2019 weekend. Over the past couple of months, we have been working with Group Leaders, District Leaders, District Commissioners and Region Commissioners to plan our 2019 Region Forum, where we will be looking at how we work as a team to make 2019 our best year yet.
3. Helping my son Andrew with his badgework towards his Grey Wolf Award. At the age of 8, he is keen on achieving his Grey Wolf and isn't far from his yellow book at any time of the day. He asked me for a photo of Baden Powell for his room for Christmas.... a Scouting tragic in the making.
4. Preparing our Group books for audit. Not only is 1 January the start of a new year, and my mum's birthday, it is the start of a new Scouting Year. Take the opportunity to get in early and get your books audited. We won't be locking in ARP's this year unless the books have been audited beforehand, so let's get it done before the new term starts.
5. Preparing for Cumberland Gang Show's 50th season. With record applications this year to join the cast, I am eagerly awaiting my letter to find out if you'll see me on stage again in 2019. Make sure you lock this into your program, 12th - 20th July at Parramatta Riverside Theatre.

Enjoy a safe and festive season and I look forward to seeing you all in 2019. The Year to Grow.

Geoff Henderson (BEATLE)
Deputy Region Commissioner – Strategy and Development
Email: strategy@greaterwestscouts.com.au





22nd New Zealand Scout Jamboree
Solve the Mystery
Mystery Creek • 2019-2020



28th December 2019 - 7th January 2020

Applications to attend the 22nd New Zealand Jamboree are now open.

The cost is \$3,000 for Scouts and \$2,350 for others.

To apply go to <https://registrations.international.scouts.com.au>

CUB SCOUT REPORT

Thank you

As 2018 draws to a close, I would like to thank all the Cub Leaders in GWSR for your dedication and commitment to the youth members of the Region and for doing such a great job over the past year.

I would like to thank the wonderful Region Seeonee Team; Andrew Selmes, Robert Rigby, Jeff Hook, Michelle Mclean, Jim Abbott and Melissa Harding who have worked hard supporting the Groups, Districts and Region activities and events throughout 2018.

I would also like to thank Ian Lutz and Helen Hodge for supporting the role of Seeonee Leader for Hills District during the year. The role of DCSL (or Seeonee Leader) for Hills District remains vacant and I would like to encourage all Hills Cub Leaders to consider taking on this important support role. If you feel this role is for you, please contact me by email (below) or DC Terry Brooke, to discuss further.

Hawkesbury DCSL, Jim Abbott will be stepping down from this role at the end of the year. I would like to thank Jim for all he has done in the District and I wish him well as CSL at 1st Grose Vale. I would like to welcome Garry Hudson to the team as Hawkesbury Seeonee Leader in the New Year.

Planning for 2019

Many Groups and Cub Packs have started to plan their program for 2019. The Region Cub calendar has now been completed and is available on the GWS Region website. Please ensure that you plan for your Cub Pack to join in the many activities available to Cubs.

New Role – Region Cub Scout Leader - Call for Expressions of Interest

I am looking for an assistant who is enthusiastic, full of energy and ideas, able to communicate on all levels, with a passion for the Cub Scout section. The main focus of this position will be on youth programme and youth engagement. You should be willing to attend Region events, some District and Pack events and Region meetings. To apply for this role, you should be aged between 18 and 30. This is a wonderful leadership opportunity for the right person. Please send your expression of interest to me by email.

Challenging new year - 2019

I hope everyone has a very relaxing break and that you find some time to rejuvenate for the new year. I look forward to the challenges of the year to come, and what a year it will be!! With a new year, comes a new Youth Program, a new Scouts Australia logo (so I'm

told), and an exciting new Cuboree 2020. Applications for Cuboree 2020 will open early in the new year. This Cuboree, we will have a team of Cuboree ambassadors, made up of Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders, ready to travel to different activities across the Region promoting the Cuboree.

I wish you and your family a safe break, take care, see you in 2019!

Yours in Scouting,

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



Congratulations to the following Cub Scouts who have achieved their Grey Wolf Award

Jed Berben

1st Blaxland

Mikayla Mercieca

1st Blaxland

Toby Baker

1st Blaxland

Lily Uren

1st Penrith

Eric Burakowski

1st Kellyville

Gabriel Paul

1st/2nd Blacktown

Danuli Kankanamge

1st Balcombe Heights

Corey Herbert

1st Hawkesbury

1- 2 - 3 - WOOF!

ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS

It is that time of the year when we think of nominations for the Adult Recognition Awards and some info hereunder;

All nominations are to be sent to me via neville@greaterwestscouts.com.au

1. **For Special Service, Meritorious Service and Silver Wattle** - only citation and pages 1 and 3 of the nomination form and the additional endorsements. Please do citation in word as I will send it back if not in that format. Pages 1 and 3 please don't scan as I will have to retype if I can't correct any mistakes.
2. **For Koala and above** - need the full nomination form completed (pages 1,2,3) as well as the additional endorsements page. Also citation in word. Pages 1, 2 and 3 please don't scan as I will have to retype if I can't correct any mistakes.
3. **Nomination Form** is on the State website under forms or they have been sent to your Group Leader or District Commissioner.
4. **Citations** are to be of no more than 1500 characters. Will not fit onto Scoutlink if longer and won't print on the Citation given at the presentation

Any enquiries please email me.

Nominations close at Region Office on **Friday 25th January COB** to allow time for the office to process before sending to State Office.
No late nominations will be actioned.

Thanking you, Neville

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



1st/2nd Merrylands St Anne's Scout Group

Jeanie Wood GL

Joeys are always thinking of how they can care and share for each other, the community, the environment, and even the world. We kicked off our care and share badge by helping our families and our communities, by doing good deeds throughout the week.

Our remembrance night was an important one, with the Joeys learning what Remembrance Day is about. We also made red poppies to remember the soldiers, as well as purple poppies for the animals.

Joey Scouts participating in the local Remembrance Day ceremony



FROM THE SCOUT DEN

I would like to thank all the leaders in GWSR for a job well done and for all your support this year. Scouts would not run and my job would be a lot harder without you! Things are slowing down this month with the welcome end of year activities. Everyone by now will need a rest to rejuvenate for the New Year. I look forward to the challenges of the year to come.

Jamboree is looming upon us and I know I've started packing my new bag already. With only a few weeks to go you must be getting very excited. Transport has been finalised but you should all be able to login to your application now to see the timings for leaving day and return day. I can't believe it's such an early morning return!!!! Mine is 1.15am!!!!!!! I look forward to seeing the happy faces of you all at Tailem Bend. I'll be meeting some of the buses as they arrive.

I would like to congratulate the following scouts on achieving their Australian Scout Medallion:

Lauren Morden – 1st Castle Hill

Lachlan Watts – 1st Hawksbury

Alexander Quan – 2nd Castle Hill

Thomas Marston – 1st North Rocks

Hannah Wilson – 1st North Rocks

They will all be presented their medallions next April at Luna Park. Congratulations all of you on such a fine achievement. B-R-A-V-O-O-O!

Jamborette 2019 is OPEN! Please get yourselves organised early next year for camping and bases!

The name for Jamborette has been decided "A Day in the Life of....Your true self" and the badge design competition is open. So please get the scouts to send their ideas through as soon as possible. Entries close on 31st December 2018. Two districts have already decided their theme. The other districts should be thinking hard.

We will be holding an Advanced Scout Leadership Course first term 8th -10th March 2019. Find the event on EMS. Register now! Leaders....Please tell your scouts to register. We don't want to have to cancel this event again!!

*******Job Vacancy*******

Apology: Last month my Job Vacancy read that "This position will focus on the youth problem." It was supposed to read "This position will focus on the youth program." I am sorry for the auto correct.

I am looking for an assistant. This person should be under 30 with a passion for the scout section and willing to attend some meetings and troops.

They should be enthusiastic and full of energy and ideas and able to communicate on all levels. This position will focus on the **youth program**.

Venturers are welcome to apply. Please send your **Expression of Interest** to me by **30th January 2019**. This could be a great leadership opportunity for the right person.

Merry Christmas to all our scouts and leaders. Have a safe, enjoyable holiday! I look forward to seeing you all next year fully refreshed and ready to tackle another action packed year!

Tracey Stopps (Wiangi) RC Scouts

Email: scouts@greaterwestscouts.com.au



CAVING PROFICIENCY BADGE COURSE (open to members of the Scout section)

Maximum 66 participants

**7:45am Saturday April 27, 2019 to
3:00pm Sunday April 28, 2019**

@ Billy Grace Reserve, Wee Jasper

Scouts: \$38

Early Bird Scouts: \$30

Leaders: Free

Caving Team: Free

Registrations open now!

**Early Bird closes Sunday March 10, 2019
Registrations close Wednesday April 10, 2019**

See the EMS for full details and E1 template

<https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/175>

It's on again in 2019.....

The 69th Sirius Cup Regatta



What is it?

- a chance for Scouts, Venturers and Leaders to get together at a camp based around water activities
- the Scout Groups camp on Balmoral Oval, just a hop, skip and a jump from the waters of Middle Harbour, as a tent city comes to life from Friday afternoon
- Scouts come from all around including interstate, Lake Burley Griffin, Lake Ginninderra and Lake Tuggeranong from the ACT, from the north (Belmont North, Woy Woy), from the west (Penrith) and from the south (Gerringong).

More Details...

- the Sirius Cup Regatta is the premier Scout sailing regatta on the Branch calendar and it is held annually
- there are 5 divisions of sailing races
- canoeing races for Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders
- rowing events
- iron man events for all-comers
- activities for the land lubbers
- evening entertainment

The when and where...

15th to 17th March 2019

Balmoral Oval/Balmoral Beach, Sydney

For more details, please visit

<http://siriuscup.webs.com/> or email siriuscup@yahoo.com.au

Mark it in your diary now!

GWSR ACTIVITIES



I really cannot believe this is our last Bulletin for this year, with Christmas just around the corner. It has certainly been another busy month along with a busy year with lots happening.

Our Yabbies, led by Ross Smith, had a bit of fun in the mountains with a very enjoyable day spent canyoning at both Twister & Rocky Creek, up in the Blue Mountains.

We ran a very successful weekend Canoe Workshop, with about half the participants from the new Coptic Scout Group. Saturday was spent at Lake Parramatta, learning the skills to paddle in a straight line, along with rescue techniques. Sunday was down on the Parramatta River, where the scouts could put their new-found skills into action.



Enjoying the tranquillity in the upper reaches of Lake Parramatta. Photo Mark Fell



Our Wombats were also out and about going to places where the *sun don't shine*. This time it was at the lesser known Wyanbene Caves, which are adjacent to the Deua National Park, south east of Canberra.

David (Macca) McKinley was chief Wombat, ably supported by Paul Jefferies and their fellow Wombats. Unlike most cave systems that we do, this is a wet cave system, with a stream running through it, which does provide a few added challenges!

Paul Jefferies just hanging out.....again!

Photo David McKinley

Keith Travers and John van den Burg spent a number of days running a very successful sailing course, with some Rovers, on Lake Chipping Norton.

At our last Region Activities Meeting, I was very proud to be able to present John van den Burg with his 35 Year Service Badge for his service to Scouting and particularly for his help these last few years with both canoeing and sailing. BRAVO O O John!



Not quite a Sydney to Hobart, but the principles are the same!

Photo Keith Travers

With the warmer weather there are certainly lots more water activities happening.

A big thank you to Ben Gross who ran a very successful canoeing weekend up at Swansea on the beautiful Lake Macquarie.



When you think about it - we really are very privileged in GWSR. We have mountains, canyons, lakes, rivers and caves, all waiting to be explored. How about getting in early with a New Year's Resolution.... ***"I am going to get out next year and learn a new outdoor activity skill!"***

In closing for 2018, can I firstly pass on my sincere thanks to my Activities Team who have worked tirelessly over the year to provide the very best in outdoor adventurous activities. And of course, thank you to everyone in the Region who supported us in coming along to our activity workshops and events.

On a personal note can I also pass on my appreciation to those who sent their condolences to myself on the recent passing of my mum, after a short, but fairly intense illness.

Have a safe and Merry Christmas to you all .

Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities

Email: activities@greaterwestcouts.com.au



VENTURER REPORT

I would like to congratulate **Tessa Hitches** and **Claire Dunning** from 1st Blaxland on achieving their Queen's Scout Awards. I also attended a Queen's Scout Award presentation for **Tim Marks** from 1st North Rocks. That makes 20 for the calendar year across 13 of our 19 Venturer Units. A truly remarkable achievement, congratulations on your achievements.



Tim Marks and Brian Nelson RCVS

This month I have also advertised for the position of an assistant. It is a development role open to Rovers and younger leaders. The successful applicant would work with me, the Region Venturer Scout Council and the District Leaders to promote Venturing in the region and reach out to units in GWS. This is part of a broader push by our Region Commissioner David Stopps to develop our future leaders and is a great opportunity to take a lead role in the region. If you have any questions or would like a position description, contact me. The appointment would be as a Region Leader. Applications close at the end of January 2019.

Last month I reported the outcomes of **Waratah 2018 - Harry Pottah and the League of Shadows**. This month I acknowledge the work of the Fellowship members, leaders and Rovers who helped us run the events this year.

These included our Waratah Director Andrew Cross; Waratah Activity Fellowship Chair Kelly Wallace and the Fellowship team; Concept team led by Steve Wallace; the activities team led by Matt Vella; Catering team led by Gary Riches; Robert Wood on Admin; Kristine Mason on First Aid; John Wicks on Sites and Services assisted by Jason Graham and the multitude of people who ran activities across the region.



Playing Quidditch at Waratah



1st Blaxland at Waratah



Waratah Catering Team

I also participated in a **night hike** organised by the **Region bushwalking team** out of Blackheath, including Venturers from Blackheath and Kings Langley. It turned out to be a very cold night for November – 11 degrees and blowing a gale. The GWS Events system has details of these hikes.



1st Blackheath Night Hike

We will make announcements about the theme and location of **Waratah 2019** at Region Venturer Scout Council meeting in February next year. Look out for that one!

We have large contingent of Venturers and leaders attending the New Zealand Venture and another group attending AJ 2019 in South Australia.

Roventure is full steam ahead for February 15 - 17 next year. The Rovers are really excited about this and I encourage all units to attend. The event will be held at Camp Ku-Ring-Gai Activity Centre at Cumberland Reach. You can book on GWSR's event management system at <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/162>

The State Venturer Council is also running **Vertigo** again on the Australia Day long weekend. It will be at Glenfield again. Details are available on the Venturers' NSW Facebook Group.

As we come to the end of the year, I thank everyone for their support during the nearly two years that I've been in this job. Next year promises to be an exciting year as we start to transition to the new youth program.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Brian Nelson (Sparkie) RC Venturer Scouts
Email: venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au



POSITION VACANT

Region Leader VS (Assistant to RCVS) Greater Western Sydney Region

We are seeking expressions of interest from Rovers and younger leaders for the position of RLVS, GWSR

The key functions of the role are:

1. To prepare today's youth as tomorrow's leaders.
2. To work with the RCVS to manage all aspects of delivering the Venturer Program in the region.

Closing date: 18th January 2019

For a position description and any enquiries
please contact Brian Nelson

venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au

RADIO, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Hover Night at Rouse Hill

Gabie invited us to this new Group to 'show them something different.' Different is what we specialise in; whether it's things you haven't seen before, or different ways of looking at what you already know.

This night is about **Friction**; where we need it, where we try to minimise it.

A simple example is the push bike.

- Where do we need friction - on the handle bar, on the pedal, on the seat, between the wheel and the road, and especially on the brake.
- How do we increase friction here – by rubber grips, tyres and brake pads.
- Where do we not need it – in the steering, in the pedals and crank shaft, in the wheel axle.
- How do we minimise friction at these points – ball bearings and grease.

(Push bike maintenance and safety are traditional Cub and Scout activities, so next time you run it, throw in a little science).

The last activity of the night is to ride the Hover Disk. To show that it's not too scary, the Rover helper went first, followed by the Joeys and Cubs in pairs.

Since the disk floats on a film of air, when it gets moving it just keeps going in that direction. The rope attached to the disk is to stop it hitting a wall and spilling the passengers.



John Leahy GWS Activity Leader
Email: john.scoutleahy@gmail.com



#ROVERS100 A YEAR IN REVIEW



#ROVERS100 MOOT SEASON



Shmoot was a fairy tale weekend! Rovers from across the kingdom traveled to the land of Far Far Away and took a dip in the Swamp at Shmoot! A Shrek-themed weekend full of fun and fantastical adventures, with the team from GWS winning the event!



Nepean Rover Crew mastered the motto of Service100 as their crew headed to Camp Coutts to assist with clearing out the bathrooms to make way for their upcoming renovation.



Mad scientist Moot, *evil laugh*, is the annual ACT Branch Moot down in Yass. GWS Rovers had a blast of a weekend! Safety goggles and Lab coats were a must as the GWS Rovers made liquid nitrogen ice-cream, fired a mini rocket, played with bubbles and made slime to name a few.



Waratah, was a magical camp, with 22 GWS Rovers in attendance, the biggest yet! Rovers from across the GWS region providing service to the other sections by assisting in the running of activities. Being Harry Potter themed there were many tasks that the students had to participate in; Quidditch, potion making class, sorting hat, spell casting and the Yule ball. The Venturers and Scouts had a wonderful time. We look forward to seeing them for **Roventure** on the 15th Feb 2019.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ROVERS 2018 - 2019

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Lord Mayor's Picnic

Monday 31st December 1pm, Government House Sydney

HAPPY NEW YEAR

AJ 2019/25th Australia Jamboree

Thursday 3rd January - Monday 14th January, Tailem Bend Motor Sports Park, SA

Out Of This World Moot - SCAT Rovers (\$30)

Friday 18th January 6pm - Sunday 20th January 12pm, Mt Keira Scout Camp

Community Blood Drive

Saturday 19th January 10am, Australian Red Cross Blood Service, Rosehill

Voc 4 meeting - Dragonskin 2019

Sunday 20th January 5pm - 6pm, 3 Orleton Place, Werrington County

Indiana Jones and The Temple of Moot - Surf Moot (\$85)

Friday 25th January 2pm - Monday 28th January 12pm

Eumeralla Scout Camp, Anglesea VIC

GWS RRC

Wednesday 5th February 7pm

B - Side Moot (\$35 - \$40)

Friday 8th February 5pm - Sunday 10th February 2pm, Camp Kariong

Roventure 2019: The Rover - Venturer Games (\$50)

Friday 15th February 5pm - Sunday 17th February 3pm, Camp Ku-Ring-Gai

PR & Internet Officer - GWS Rovers email: pr.internet@gwsrovers.com.au



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.

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

Email : bulletin@greaterwestscouts.com.au



THE BULLETIN

The next issue of this newsletter will be in February.

Please ensure all your articles and requests for publishing are with the Editor by February 10, 2019

Many thanks - Anne Thompson

Email : bulletin@greaterwestscouts.com.au

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

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy healthy and prosperous New Year!

