



The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 482 – February 2020



LORD ROBERT BADEN-POWELL

February 22, 1857 -
January 8, 1941

Chief Scout
of the World



Happy Founder's Day

GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION OFFICE

6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills 2153

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

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

Website: www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER

Welcome back to 2020. I hope you all had a great Christmas. This year starts off a little bit sad with the resignation of our office manager, **Kim Harris**. Kim has been with us for 10 years and during those 10 years Kim has put her blood, sweat and tears into going above and beyond her duties. I don't know about the rest of you but I, personally, will miss her. Kim's last day will be March 4. Please help me wish her well in her new endeavors. Thank you, Kim from the bottom of my heart. BRAVO!!!

I'd also like to mention some amazing people within the Region:

Annette Douglas, Parramatta District on being awarded the Order of Australia Medal. BRAVO Annette!

Nepean Rovers for the service they gave at the Chief Commissioner's Conference Gala Dinner. Their professionalism, their attitude and their all round good humour. You guys absolutely rock!

To all the groups that opened their doors to the victims of the summer fires. We had people living in scout halls as they were evacuated. Thank you for your efforts.

Henriette De Koning, for the help she gave the family that lost their house in the Hawkesbury and all the work she put towards the Gala Dinner Auction to help raise money for the NSW Chief Commissioner's Emergency Fund.

To all the **Cub Leaders** that were so disappointed with the cancellation of Cuboree 2020 but rallied round to put on camps for their pack/unit at such short notice. This is Scouting perseverance at its best.

Also, to the **Rovers** who helped with the cancellation of the CBR Moot in the ACT and put on a respite camp at Bundilla with 3 days notice. This was not any easy task with continued fire danger and risk assessments that were required. Well done – you deserve a medal.

It goes to show, that we have some amazing individuals in GWS. BRAVO to all of you!!!

As I have said before no group will have their **ARP** unless their financials are in order and at the **Region Office** by **30th March 2020**. This is a directive from NSW Scouts. All groups should have their ARP dates to their DCs by now, as it is a requirement that a region representative attend your ARP.

Veronica Brogden from 2nd Baulkham Hills has come to us with an idea to help raise funds for the NSW Chief Commissioner's Emergency Relief Campaign. She has organised a walk from Penrith to Bundilla on 4th April

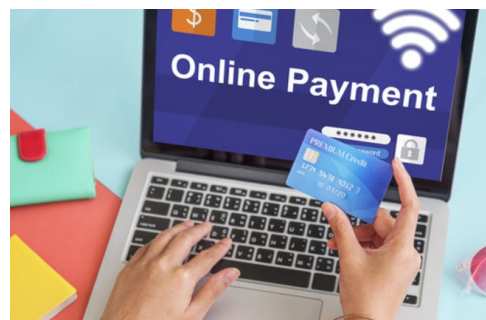
The walk has different stages for all abilities. Please register at

<https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/295>

I had the pleasure of attending the **Blacktown Scouts** 'Wet start' to 2020. I believe all those who attend had a great time. Congratulations to Michael Gibbs (Uckillya) and Richard Burr (Croc) for organizing the event and for the invitation.

I also attend the **Rovies**, held at Toongabbie Sports Club. What a fantastic initiative for our Region Rover Council! It was good to see the Rovers out of uniform, letting their hair down and having some fun. Congratulations to all the winners of the awards, especially to the **Gold Rovie Award** winner **Benjamin Kuzma**. BRAVO! There was a great turn out for the first event. I look forward to attending this event next year.

David Stopps
Region Commissioner
rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au
Mobile: 0472 688 766 (04SCOUTS66)



GWS ScoutEvent (Region EMS) now accepting online payments!

We are excited to announce that our event registration system is now accepting online credit card payments directly through the web portal for all events managed by GWS Region Office.

Once you have completed a new registration for an event, you will see a '**Pay Online Now**' button that allows you to securely enter your credit card details and make payment.

Alternatively, you can return to any unpaid registrations via 'My Registrations' and make your payment online.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Matt Thompson
RC Communications & PR
communications@greaterwestscouts.com.au

WORLD SCOUT DAY ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS

Just a note to advise that we had 98 nominations for the 2020 awards. A great result and at least I only received 5 on the last day. I can assure you that I read every submitted nomination.

Thanks to everyone who nominated someone and now I can have my life back for a short time. The awards will be announced on World Scout Day 1st August 2020.

Nomination Numbers...

1 X Silver Kangaroo
5 X Silver Emus
3 X Distinguished Service
6 X Silver Koala
6 X Silver Wattle
6 X Outstanding Service
19 X Meritorious Service
51 X Special Service

Numbers for each District...

Blacktown	16
Blue Mountains	14
Hawkesbury	7
Hills	10
Holroyd	5
Parramatta	16
Penrith	8
Region	9
Gang Show	8
Fellowships	5

A special Thank You to Steve Wallace who wrote 13 nominations for his two Districts and Josh Fisher from 2nd Kings Langley who topped the tally for a group. Thanks to both of you for giving me extra work!

Please note in your diaries that the **Presentation Night is Thursday 15th October 2020 at Wentworthville Leagues Club** (we understand in the new conference centre).

Neville Henderson OAM JP
Honorary Commissioner



2020 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Congratulations to

ANNETTE DOUGLASS

on being awarded an

Order of Australia Medal (OAM)

Annette has been involved with 1st Parramatta Scout Group since 1990 as a CSL and now Honorary Leader



\$211,000 has already been raised for the Bushfire Appeal from sales of the *Rebuilding together* badge!

Orders for badges can continue to be placed through to the end of February at this stage.

To ensure as much as possible can go to the appeal, postage and handling of \$5 will be added to any order placed in Australia. Whether you order one badge or many badges, a \$5 postage and handling charge will be added to your order to contribute to distribution costs. Visit <https://scoutshop.com.au/> to place your order.

The Chief Commissioners of all Australian States & Territories have approved this badge to be worn on the right chest of the uniform as a special event badge.

In NSW Scouting Groups and families impacted by bushfire will receive funds raised from badge sales through the NSW Family Support Fund.

APPOINTMENTS & TRANSFERS TO 27/1/2020 GWSR

BROWN, Khylie	From Trainee Ldr (S) To ASL	2nd Kings Langley Scout Troop 2nd Kings Langley Scout Troop
CONNOR, Elena	From GL To RL	1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Group 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Group
LEWIN, Nipaporn	From Trainee Ldr (CS) To ACSL	1st Carlingford Cub Pack <i>Alleena</i> 1st Carlingford Cub Pack <i>Alleena</i>
MILLER, Geraldine	From AJSL To GL-P	1st Carlingford Joey Mob 1st Carlingford Scout Group
STOPPS, David	GL-DA	1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Group
SUN, Ping	From Trainee Ldr (CS) To ACSL	1st Carlingford Cub Pack <i>Alleena</i> 1st Carlingford Cub Pack <i>Alleena</i>
XU, Yan	From Trainee Ldr (CS) To ACSL	1st Carlingford Cub Pack <i>Alleena</i> 1st Carlingford Cub Pack <i>Alleena</i>
ZHANG, Ping	From Trainee Ldr (CS) To ACSL	1st Carlingford Cub Pack <i>Alleena</i> 1st Carlingford Cub Pack <i>Alleena</i>
ANDERSON, Helen	From VSL-P To VSL	1st Oakville Venturer Unit 1st Oakville Venturer Unit
GARDEN, Belinda	From CSL-P To CSL	1st Sth Penrith Cub Pack <i>Glenmore</i> 1st Sth Penrith Cub Pack <i>Glenmore</i>
MILLER, Gillian	From CSL-P To CSL	1st Oakville Cub Pack 1st Oakville Cub Pack
SMITH, Rosemary	Fellowship Member	Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship
LOCKMAN, Katherine	From JSL To AJSL	1st Toongabbie Joey Mob 1st Toongabbie Joey Mob
MCLEAN, Alasdair	From AJSL To JSL-P	1st Toongabbie Joey Mob 1st Toongabbie Joey Mob
BAKER, Rita	AJSL	1st Winston Hills Joey Mob
SHAW, Mitchell	From JSL To District Adviser	1st Cambridge Park Joey Mob Penrith City District
SLOAN, Ayla-Shannyn	From Trainee Ldr (S) To Trainee Ldr (S)	1st Dural Scout Troop <i>Giwang</i> 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Troop

RESIGNATIONS GWSR

HUYNH, Bertin	GL-P	Western Sydney (BLIA) Scout Group
CALDER, Xavier	AJSL	1st Ermington Joey Mob
O'DWYER, Michael	GL-P	2nd Castle Hill Scout Group
CHAPMAN, Karen	AJSL	1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Joey Mob
OVERTON, Julie	AJSL	1st Greystanes Joey Mob
PETRIN, Tony	TL (S)	1st Sth Penrith Scout Troop <i>Yee Na Pah</i>
LUCK, Ian	ACSL	1st Glossodia Cub Pack
ONG, Alexander	ACSL	1st Carlingford Cub Pack <i>Alleena</i>
PLAYFORD, Janette	Fellowship Member	Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship
OVERLAND, Joshua	ASL	2nd Castle Hill Scout Troop
PARKER, Caitlin	ACSL	1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Cub Pack
THOMSON, Ross	TL (S)	2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Troop

APPOINTMENTS TO 27/1/2020 THE GOLDEN WEST

GEOGHEGAN, Nicholas	From ACSL To VSL	3rd Orange Cub Pack 3rd Orange Venturer Unit
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GARY MORTIMER
21st January 2020

Gary commenced his Scouting career as an Assistant Scout Leader with 2nd Greystanes in 1990 before moving to Orange. He served as Assistant Scout Leader then Scout Leader with 3rd Orange until resigning in 1999. Gary was awarded the Scout Wood Badge in 1997 and attended Australian Jamborees in 1992 (Ballarat) and 1998 (Springfield).



"FOX", PAUL (CLINT) WARBY
21st January 2020

Clint and his wife Joyce, were Mormons from Salt Lake City, Utah USA. Both Clint and Joyce had been involved as leaders with the Utah Chapter of Boy Scouts of America for most of their adult lives and their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren have all been youth members of the Boy and Girl Scouts of America with four of their sons achieving the coveted Eagle Scout Award.

Clint "Fox" and Joyce "Owl" Warby accepted a mission from their church to come to Australia in early 2008. On their arrival, they asked at the Mormon Temple in Carlingford for contact details for a needy Scout Group. 1st Ermington Scouts were the lucky recipients of their assistance, as at that time, they had no trained Cub Scout Leaders. Whilst both had been wood badge holders in the USA, they agreed to undertake training as Cub Scout Leaders as they wanted to embrace the full Australian Scouting experience. A few months later, they were Asst. Cub Scout Leaders at 1st Ermington.

For over 2 years Clint and Joyce presented innovative and uniquely American culture experiences to the Cub pack. They built soap box cars and 1st Ermington held the Inaugural soap box derby. They taught cubs to make sailboats and sail them in the rainwater gutter derby. They taught cubs to make genuine American Smores and to cook scones (rhymes with stones). They made authentic American Indian dream catchers.

Fox taught the cubs native American songs and chants and was a master at telling the spooky story of "The Cremation of Sam McGee" at camp fires, complete with lighting effects. He also used a Scoutmaster's Minute at the end of a meeting to reflect on spirituality and being a good citizen.

Although Clint and Joyce were only with 1st Ermington for 2 years, they have stayed in contact with the leaders and are in our hearts. Clint & Joyce celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September 2019. Unfortunately, Clint developed Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia in 2019

***Our thoughts are with Joyce and the Warby family.
We are all just a little better people for having known Clint.***

It's on again in 2020...

The 70th 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...

20th to 22nd March 2020

Balmoral Oval/Balmoral Beach, Sydney

For more details, please visit

<http://siriuscup.x10host.com/> or email siriuscup@yahoo.com.au

Mark it in your diary now!



**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
1ST GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGIONETTE
AND THE
43RD GWS JAMBORETTE**

WHEN: 4-8 JUNE 2020

WHERE: CATARACT SCOUT PARK

WHY: We are inviting all members of scouts (Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers, Leaders, Fellowship and Honorary) of GWS to attend **AND** their families!

Register for your whole group and families at:

<https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/259>

Note: Venturers and Rovers will be camped on their own subcamps as per normal Jamborette.

Fellowships and Honorary Members have the opportunity to bunk.

All others will camp together as a group in their district areas.

Activities will be supplied in sections. All districts are to supply 2 bases per section (2x Joeys, 2x Cubs, 2x Scouts) **All** Venturers are expected to work on/run bases. Rovers are as usual to work on security and/or run bases or go as line leaders. Please submit the base applications to rcscoutsgws1@gmail.com

Growing a Scout Group: A Case Study

1st Grose Vale is one of our smaller Groups, based in Kurrajong in the Hawkesbury District with a proud heritage (this month they celebrate the Groups 40th anniversary). Over the past 5 years, 1st Grose Vale has seen member numbers across their two sections sitting around youth 24 members (12 Cubs and 12 Scouts) with 5 section leaders, one of whom is a Leader-in-Charge.

With some older Scouts leaving the Group and 2 families moving out of area, the numbers quickly dropped to 12 youth in July 2019. In addition, one of the long standing Cub Leaders left the Group to undertake some travel, leaving only one Cub Leader, relying on parent helpers to support in delivering the programme.

These low numbers started to put a strain on the programming, and on one night, only 2 Cubs attended the meeting, as the other 3 members were at a school concert. This made it tough for the leader and the kids to enjoy.

Skip ahead to February 2020. 1st Grose Vale Scout Group has 31 youth members across 3 sections (Joeys, Cubs and Scouts), 7 Section leaders and a Group Leader and Assistant Group Leader.

How did they do it?

First off, I can say there is no single action that led to this change. As you will see, there were multiple things that allowed for this change to happen.

Having a Group Leader

During 2019, one of the Assistant Scout Leaders transferred their appointment to Group Leader. Having a Leader in Charge for 4 years had worked well and kept the Group moving forward, however, it was unfair to the leader who had to juggle Section and Group responsibilities. Having a Group Leader allows them to focus on that role.

'Bring-a-Friend' Term

The Group Leader extended the Bring-a-Friend night concept to Bring-a-Friend term. Providing the kids with flyers to take to school or give to neighbours, this allowed kids the opportunity to encourage their friends along over a number of weeks, rather than one week only.

Starting a Joey Section

Early in 2019, the group was approached by a parent, enquiring about Joeys, as travelling to the nearest Joey Unit was not an option. The parent was interested in becoming a Leader to help get the Unit running. Once feasibility of a Joey Unit was established, a plan was put to the Region Commissioner, outlining where the Youth and Leaders would come from and how the new Unit would (or wouldn't) impact other Joey Units. Approval was given to commence and the first Joey meeting was held 5th August 2019. The Unit is well underway, with 2 leaders, 6 members and 2 new chums.

Promotion at events

Raising awareness of Scouting was important, with many community members commenting "I didn't know Scouts still existed". In uniform and supported by the highly visible and branded Region marquee, the Group attended Bowen Mountain Spring Fair (4 new members gained), Kurrajong Christmas Carols (1 new member gained) and regularly uses the new signage at McGrath's Hill Bunnings BBQs.

Nominated parent to welcome new parents

Having a friendly face at the door helps parents feel comfortable about leaving their kids in your care. It also gives the opportunity to inform the parents about how Scouting works (we cannot assume that parents know this). Having someone nominated to greet them and help them with the online Y1 gets new recruits off on the right foot (1st Grose Vale even have a computer at the hall to make signing up easier for parents).

Website and Welcome Pack

Grose Vale have set up their website (cost to run is \$250 annually). This hosts all the information that parents need, including the Welcome Pack, and they have received a number of enquiries through the site this year. Each enquiry receives an email, outlining the benefits of Scouting and the Welcome Pack.

Check out 1st Grose Vale's website at: <https://www.1stgrosevalecouts.com/>

New Leaders

With an immediate need for an Assistant Cub Scout Leader, the parents were individually asked if they would be interested. Fortunately one of the parents was willing to take this on. In addition, the group Leader had been discussing leadership opportunities with the local Rover Crew. From there, two Rovers have agreed to become leaders (1 in Joeys, 1 in Cubs). If you don't ask, sometimes you don't know. As youth membership increases, there is more opportunity to roll out Leader Build to the parent population.

Retention

Of course, recruitment is useless unless it is accompanied by retention. 1st Grose Vale develop their programme with their youth members to ensure they are doing the activities that the kids want to do. It is available at the start of term, so parents know what is happening and when. A great programme ensures the kids keep coming back.

The Group Leader, John, has set the Group a target of 60 youth by the end of 2020. An aspirational target; however, given their recent success, I wouldn't bet against them achieving it. We will follow this one with great interest.

If you have any questions about this case study, or have a case study in mind, please contact us at: strategy@greaterwestscouts.com.au

Yours in Scouting

Geoff Henderson (BEATLE)

Deputy Region Commissioner (Strategy & Development)



CUB SCOUT REPORT

Welcome back to Cub Scouts for 2020!

Last week the Region Seeonee team met with the Region Wandarrah team to discuss the upcoming Region events and activities planned.

I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing break and that you are ready and raring to go with an exciting year of Scouting ahead.

CUBOREE 2020

As you are all aware, due to the devastating bushfires that swept throughout the State, the difficult decision was made to cancel Cuboree 2020, for the safety and well being of all that were to attend and to ensure that Scouts NSW did not add any additional concerns or workload to that of the already stretched emergency services man power should the event had gone ahead.

In early January, members of the organising team came together at Bundilla to organise the packing and distribution of the event 'give away' merchandise and 'pre-sold' merchandise, whilst another small team worked away at State Office on the finances. I would like to thank all the GWS Leaders that volunteered to assist with both of these processes at short notice.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience with both of these things however; if you have not as yet received your merchandise, then please first check with the Region Office. If you have any questions or the Region Office does not have your merchandise or you have not received your refund for the event, then please contact Cuboree Admin at info@cuporee.nsw.scouts.com.au

It was fantastic to see a number of Cuboree Units organise either an alternative camp or day out for the Cubs during the holidays. Well done!

CUB CALENDAR FOR 2020

We have some exciting and engaging activities for Cubs and Cub Leaders planned for 2020. All Region Cub activities can be found in the calendar on the Region website. Please check the website for further information and updates. I encourage all Cub Packs to promote and participate in these events and activities.

Below is a summary of the Region Cub events for Term 1:

- 29 February:** Cub Scout Leadership Course
- 14 March:** Joey/Cub Fun Day on the Water
- 4 April:** Region Palaver

CUB SCOUT LEADERSHIP COURSE

This year, the Region will host four Cub Scout Leadership Courses, with the first one being held at Bundilla Scout Camp on **Saturday 29th February**.

Applications now closed.

Please remember the Cub Scout Leadership Course is not suitable for all Cubs and as such is an **invitation only event**. Cubs must be aged at least 10 years and show leadership potential to attend. Each Cub that attends MUST complete two pre-course worksheets., which have been sent to District Cub Leaders and Seeonee Leaders. Please follow up with Cubs from your Unit that they have completed the pre-work and that they take it with them to the course. **Registrations are to be made through the EMS at <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/269>**

The Region team is looking for assistance from Cub leaders and Youth helpers on the day. If you are available to help out, please register through the same link above. Get in quickly, places are limited.

JOEY/CUB FUN DAY ON THE WATER

The Region Water Activities team will be holding the annual Joey/Cub Fun Day on the water at Lake Parramatta on Saturday 14th March. This is a great event for all Joey and Cub Scouts get a chance to go canoeing, learn about water and weather and everyone gets wet! Full details and registrations can be found on the GWS website. **Applications close on Friday 28th February.**

<https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/299>

The Region team is looking for assistance from Cub leaders and Youth helpers on the day. If you are available to help out, please register through the same link above and email cubs@greaterwestscouts.com.au

1st GWS REGIONETTE

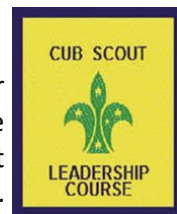
'Kingdoms and Empires of the Universe'

Registrations are now open for the first ever GWS Regionette. This is a whole Region, all Section camp being held at Cataract Scout Park on the long weekend in June (5th to 8th). **I hope that all Cub Units support this Region event.**

Registrations are now open on the Region EMS **<https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/259>**

Applications close on 1st May.

WOOD BADGE



I would like to encourage all Cub Leaders to start their advanced training 12 months after they obtain their COAL.



Congratulations to the following Cub Leaders who achieved their Wood Badge in December 2019

**Tim Uidam
Belinda Garden
Daniel Garden
Gillian Miller
Jacqueline Gross**

One, Two, Three, WOOF!

**Gabie Thompson (Darzee)
Region Commissioner Cub Scouts**



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

**Xavier Stephens
1st Carlingford**

**Zach Grejsen
1st Hazelbrook**

**Tristan Roper
1st Kings Langley**

**Andrew Harper
1st Kellyville**

**Cailan Wright
1st Hawkesbury**

**Summer Norton
1st Blaxland**

Well done & 1- 2 - 3 - WOOF

Grey Wolf Presentation

**Cameron Burke-Millard
and
Thomas Valentine**

1st Nurragingy Cub Pack



1- 2 - 3 - WOOF

SCOUTS

Welcome back to another fill-filled action-packed year. With the fires and heat gone I am glad to say that the ban for hiking in the Blue Mountains is now lifted!! Please use the usual risk assessments when hiking through the mountains but go forth and have fun!

Unfortunately, the heat and fires over the summer saw the cancellation of the 2020 Cuboree. It had promised to be the biggest and best ever delivered but alas it was not to be.

It also saw the cancellation of our Region Mindari Camp that was to be held at Berrima. In hindsight I'm glad it did – the heat on that Saturday was horrendous. Thank you to all those who attended our makeshift Mindari Camp reboot session on Saturday. I believe a lot of you took away some knowledge and made some new networking friends. It was a very positive day and it has been requested that we run it again as well as having a Camp. So we will book those in for next year at a later date.

Upcoming events for this year...

MARCH

- 21 - 22** Radio Camp - John Moyle Field Day
20 - 22 Sirius Cup Regatta

APRIL

- 4** Bushfire Relief Walk 33km Walk from 1st Penrith Scout Hall to Bundilla Scout Camp along urban and local bush tracks to unite GWS Region in a fundraising event for the NSW Chief Commissioner's Emergency Relief Campaign (Family Support Fund)

<https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/295>

TBC

- Australian Scout Medallion**
presentation (date to be confirmed)

MAY

- 1 - 3** Scout Hike for more information go to:
<http://www.southhike.com/online/default.asp>
2 & 9 uBITX SOTA Challenge

JUNE

- 6, 7 & 8** GWS Regionette – STEM SIA Communications Workshop
5 - 8 Jamborette/Regionette Region Camp at Cataract. This year's theme is 'Kingdoms and Empires of the Universe'. Some districts have chosen their theme already but here are some more suggestions:

Plant Kingdoms
Microscopic Universe
Empires of Ice
Egypt's Golden Empire
The Seven Kingdoms
Khmer Empire
Kingdom of Camelot
Parallel Universes
Animal Kingdoms
Coral Kingdoms
Golden Kingdoms
African Kingdoms
Roman Empire
Hittite Empire
Kuba Kingdom
Online Universes
Just to name a few!!

Registrations are open. So be prepared! Don't leave things to the last minute! And be prepared for a few changes! It will be the biggest camp to date.

JULY/AUGUST

- 31 Jul - 2 Aug** State Rally. The theme is 'Beyond the Horizon'. Each district is asked to run at least one activity. We are on RAC 1 again.
17 Aug Region Scout Youth Council

SEPTEMBER

- 19 - 20** RSYC Survival Camp (TBC) For all PLs and APLs in the Region

OCTOBER

- 17 - 18** JOTA/JOTI
Oct 30 - Nov 1 Advanced Leadership course

NOVEMBER

- 14** Waratah for the older scouts and leaders
16 Region Scout Youth Council
27 Parramatta District Wide Game

So remember to put all these dates in your planners.

If any troops/units need extra help to run nights, please don't be shy in asking for help. We love to help out. If you need someone short notice, please call me – if I can't make, I'm pretty sure I can find someone who can. We all know what its like to be short handed and we understand how things just happen.

Tracey Stopps (Wiangi)
Region Commissioner Scouts
scouts@greaterwestscouts.com.au





Bushfire Relief Walk

REGISTER AT: <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/295>

BADGE LINK: WOSM Messengers of Peace

WHERE: 33km Walk from 1st Penrith Scout Hall to Bundilla Scout Camp along urban and local bush tracks.

21-23 Lethbridge St, PENRITH to 6 Baden Powell Pl, WINSTON HILLS

HOW: Scouts of all ages can join the walk at any of the Scout Halls along the way.
SCOUTS ROVERS VENTURERS Start at 1st Penrith Scout Hall LEAVE 0600 (33km to go)
6km to 1st St Marys Scout Hall 0800-0815 (27km to go)
4km to 1st Mt Druitt Scout Hall 0915-0930 (23km to go)
8km to 1st Quakers Hill Scout Hall 1130-1145 (15km to go)
5km to 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Hall LUNCH 1345-1415 CUBS JOIN WALK (9.7km to go)
6km to McCoy Park 1615-1715 JOEYS JOIN WALK (4.6km to go)
4km to 1st Winston Hills Scout Hall 1815-1820 (1.2km to go)
1.2km to Bundilla Scout Camp ARRIVE 1900

FEES:

\$5 per walker Looking at donations being supporting the NSW Chief Commissioner's Emergency Relief Campaign (Family Support Fund).

\$5 for Bushfire Relief Badge to be received upon completion of the walk.

DINNER AT BUNDILLA: \$5 for sandwich and drink.

FACTS ABOUT THE GWS REGIONETTE

What is Regionette?

Just like Jamborette only bigger. It's a Region wide Family camp with a few tweaks.

Why are we running it?

To help build unity within the region and for family members to see what we do and participate and have fun – you may even get a leader or two from it.

Why this year?

It is a good year to run the Regionette as Cubs would have normally been post Cuboree so the cubs would have had the experience of a large camp and it would re-enforce the skills they learnt there. Jamboree planning/camping skills starts next year.

Will it run every year?

No. As we all know scouts use Jamborette for skill readiness for Jamboree. We may run Regionette again in 3 years or we may not.

How is camping going to work?

Groups will be camping in districts. It is up to the districts as to how they handle the camping and catering. Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, families will be camping in the same location in their districts. Ventures and Rovers will have their own space just like at Jamborette. Some smaller groups may decide to join up with other groups and camp with together, but they will still be in the same district.

How much space will each district have?

As much as they need. It will depend on how many registrations they have. It's Cataract - there is plenty of space for all. Some districts may have to move to accommodate larger or smaller districts.

How is cooking going to work?

Scouts don't usually cook in separate patrols at Jamborette – they do have duty patrols that cook for the whole troop though. Parents will be encouraged to help out.

Costings?

The \$50 fee is for camping, admin, badge, awards etc. Catering costs are up to the individual groups.

What about Child Protection?

As 'families' are invited what requirements are being put in place for child safety? All family members over 18 will be required to supply a WWC. All people over 18 staying overnight will need a WWC and an A2. Anyone coming as a day visitor will need only an A2 (we do prefer a WWC but it is not essential).

How will the activities work?

Scout Leaders/Venturers and Rovers already supply at least 2 bases per district. Cubs and Joey sections have been asked to supply 2 bases each, suitable to their section. Most Adventurous activities will be for Scouts only at this stage. Having said that we have booked the climbing wall for the younger sections (if we have enough people to run it).

Can I bring my caravan/camper?

Unfortunately, no you can't. The idea is for everybody to have the same experience as the scouts.

What will the parents/families be doing while the leaders are on bases?

Helping on the activities, taking their little ones around or helping in camp.

Still have more questions?

Email your questions to

Tracey.Stopps@nsw.scouts.com.au

GWS RADIO ACTIVE SCOUTING 2020

Radio Camp - John Moyle Field Day 21st – to 22nd March 2020

Join us for some Radio Active Scouting! This year GWS Scouts will participate in the John Moyle Field Day (JMFD) radio contest from Kooranowa Scout Camp near Yass. The JMFD is a national radio sport Amateur Radio contest. The aim is to make as many contacts as possible in a 24 hour period from a field location without any support from existing infrastructure.

In addition to the JMFD contest there will be an opportunity to participate in a Summits on the Air activation (SOTA) from the nearby Mt Bowning.

We will leave Sydney Friday evening and return Sunday afternoon. Transport will be provided by the Leaders. Bring your own tent. Food will be provided for the weekend. Parents and supporters are welcome to join us.

Luke Griffin (Region SYC) is organising this camp. If you would like to assist Luke with the organisation please let me know and I will put you in contact with him.

uBITX SOTA Challenge - 2nd May and 9th May

On the first Saturday you will assemble a quality multiband SSB transceiver (uBITX). The following Saturday we will visit a number of SOTA summit and use the radio you built to activate the summit.

The idea is you will work in pairs to assemble and test a radio. The completed radios will be put in a loan pool available to licensed scouts for radio activities. I will be approaching relevant organisations such as radio clubs to sponsor a radio. There is also the option to build your own radio at an additional cost.

We will break into teams for the SOTA activation with the aim of activating multiple summits at once. A mass Scout SOTA activation. This will enable “summit to summit” contacts and will no doubt be popular with the amateur radio community.

SOTA - <https://www.sota.org.uk/>

uBITX - <https://www.hfsignals.com/index.php/ubitx/>

GWS Regionette – STEM SIA Communications Workshop – 6,7 & 8th June

Scouts will have the opportunity to take part in a specialised Communications workshop that will run over the Regionette weekend. The workshop will run during activity times along the same lines as the adventurer level construction workshop that have been run in previous years at Jamborette.

Over the weekend you will learn about space weather, radio propagation, transmitters & receivers and basic electronics. You will have the opportunity to gain a STEM SIA badge or proficiency badge based on what award scheme you are participating in. This is a condensed version of the radio skills workshop camps that ran in 2019 resulting in 10 scouts gaining their amateur radio license and a number of proficiency badges. You will develop the technical skills required to sit the Amateur Radio License theory assessment; however this is not a mandatory component.

Outside of activity hours there will be an Amateur Radio station available for use by licensed scouts.

UNSW BLUEsat visit and Pico Balloon project – July School Holidays date TBC

During the school holidays a visit is being organised to the BLUEsat Space Projects society at the University of NSW. You will learn about the projects the BLUEsat team are working on and tour their facilities.

You will then work with the BLUEsat team to kick off a PICO balloon project. After the visit you will continue the work resulting in a PICO balloon launch. Will the balloon achieve a circumnavigation or maybe multiple?

This is also a great opportunity to complete a STEM SIA or Proficiency badge.

WICEN Visit – Dural TBA (2nd half year)

We will visit the WICEN NSW base at Dural and find out what services WICEN provides to the community. You will be able to have a look at the infrastructure and equipment used. You will gain an appreciation of how radio skills learnt in scouting can help communities when disasters occur.

WICEN NSW Inc. is a volunteer group comprised of licensed amateur radio operators who provide emergency communications in times when the public communications infrastructure such as phone networks degrade or fail. WICEN is a specialist support squad of the Volunteer Rescue Association and operates under the NSW State Disaster Plan (DISPLAN).

WICEN were active during the recent NSW fires assisting with RFS communications and establishing emergency communications in towns where the communications infrastructure was destroyed.

JOTA/JOTI 2020 – 17th & 18th October

Join in on the largest world wide scouting event held each year. We are looking for input into how GWS participates in 2020. One idea is a region Stem Camp incorporating JOTA/JOTI and other STEM activities.

VENTURERS

I would like to congratulate **Hannah Kilvington** and **Abigail Ewings** from **1st Kellyville** and **Lochlan Fraser** from **1st Erskine Park** on achieving their **Queen's Scout Awards**.

January was dominated by the bushfires that resulted in cancelling Cuboree, Vertigo and a number of region activities. While that is disappointing, we are also thankful everyone has made it through what has been a terrible season.

We held our first training course for the year in February. Unit Management is generally the first course a new Venturer will complete and teaches Venturers about Units, Unit Councils, finances and programming. We ran it early this year to assist some of our Venturers with the Queen's Scout Award.

Our next course is **Initiative** in **March**, which is also earlier than normal. That is followed soon after by an **Environment Activity**, also in **March**. Register for these events on the GWS Events system.

We selected two new youth members of the **State Venturer Council** at our February meeting. Congratulations to **Sharni Frank** from **1st/2nd Merrylands** and **Finn Kennedy** from **1st South Penrith** on their election. I would also like to thank **Jesse Garofano** and **Jack Hartley** who were our representatives last year.

Registrations for **Roventure** have now closed and we look forward to another successful event run by GWS Rovers for the Venturer section. More on that next month. **Breaking news!** This has been postponed due to flooding in the area!

This year is going to be big as we move towards a new youth program. We are offering a full region program of training courses and activities again. **Oz Venture** in January will also be a major highlight.

Brian Nelson
Region Commissioner Venturer Scouts
venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au



We've teamed up with our friends at Scouts Victoria to bring the
2020 Monster Raffle to Scout Groups in NSW!

The Monster Raffle has been a tremendous success in Victoria, raising over \$7 million over 16 years. For the first time ever, Scouts Groups across NSW can register to participate in the Monster Raffle and sell as many tickets as they can to raise funds for their Group.

With a MONSTER prize pool consisting of over 100 prizes, and 75% of proceeds going back to your Scout Group, there's no better way to kick-start your Group's 2020 fundraising! For more information about the 2020 Monster Raffle, the prizes up for grabs and how you can register your Scout Group to participate, visit the Scouts NSW website.



Clean Up Australia Day 2020

The 30th Clean Up Australia Day will take place on Sunday 1st March 2020! Participating groups will need to register by mid-February to ensure their Clean Up kit arrives on time. Get in quickly to avoid missing out! Register your Group event and find promotional resources at <https://www.cleanup.org.au/>



REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM 2020

Welcome back for 2020, and what will be another great year of Scouting within GWS.

The Christmas break has certainly been one of extremes! Particularly in relationship to the bushfires, across virtually the whole of Eastern Australia. We have all been touched by the sheer devastation in some areas; the heroic efforts of literally thousands of volunteers, and now the aftermath, with hundreds of thousands of hectares of bushland burnt. (I purposely did not say destroyed) The bushland will recover, however the devastation on our wildlife maybe a different story.

So, as a Scouting community what can we do?

First and foremost, we need to ensure our own safety, particularly when venturing into bushfire affected areas. Fire inside trees (called Goose pens) can make trees very unstable, causing them to fall without notice. This will be an ongoing issue for many months, if not years. National Parks and the State Forestry Commission are working very hard with emergency services at identifying trees at risk, particular on popular walking tracks, and bush areas where people may frequent.

Then there are all the native animals! Catching and caring for wild animals is a specialised skill and best left to the experts.

However, there are things that we may be able to help with, in regard to the wildlife. There are a number of Wildlife Organizations setting up drinking facilities in bush areas, for native animals who have survived, but are still contending with drought. Those handy with a hammer, community groups like Men's Shed, with the support of Bunnings, are building little nesting boxes. Opportunities abound!

How about this one for something outside the box. Some of the wonderful people from Wardrobe at Gang Show spent time sewing together little pouches to be passed on to organisations caring for injured and orphaned animals

...now that is ingenuity!



GWS Region under the watchful eye of Veronica Brogden and Tracey Stopps are organizing a Bush Fire Relief Walk on Saturday 4th April, hiking from 1st Penrith Scout Hall to Bundilla on the newly created Great West Walk, covering a distance of 33km. Details are on the Region EMS

Also look out for an Abseiling workshop; an overnight Bushwalking trip around Putty Beach; the Region Joey/Cub Water Fun Day; and for those who like to keep out of the sun, our first Caving weekend of the year. All details are on the Region EMS. <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/>

Summer is certainly not over yet, nor is the Bushfire Season. But as Scouts, we can adapt. Let us take the challenges we face; not forgetting our core values and remembering our Scout Promise and Law. Particularly the bit about "helping other people"

...and maybe the odd Koala...!



Mark Fell (Dingo)
Region Commissioner Activities
Stage Manager, Cumberland Gang Show
activities@greaterwestscouts.com.au

GWSR ROVERS !

Welcome to 2020 !!

On behalf of all the GWSR Rovers I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year! With the start of 2020 kicking off not quite how everyone planned; horrendous bush fires caused the CBR Moot to be re-located then unfortunately, cancelled. But hey, what's a Rover event without a little hiccup right?



I've reached out to a few Rovers to see what they are most excited about jumping into 2020

Ben Kuzma, 1st Blaxland Rover Crew 'Kalangadoo' - Supporting my fellow Rover Scouts

Ayla-Shannyn Sloan, Blacktown Rover Crew - Seeing what adventures my crew and region get up too

Cameron Wright, Nepean Rover Crew - Seeing our crew become more bonded



With the bushfires worsening, Lifeblood will require even more blood donations! Ayla from Blacktown Rover Crew is going to organise a few group bookings!

If you are interested please let us know through our Facebook page *Blood is Life* or even book yourself in for an appointment. Call **Lifeblood Rosehill on 13 14 95** and mention you want to join the **Blacktown Rover Red25 group!**

Merry Christmas from Nepean Rover Crew



A MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSISTANT REGION CHAIR PERSON

It's been an exciting month for our Rovers with many big events now in their final weeks of planning.

Coming up on the 8th February we have our first **Rovies**. An award night to celebrate all of the great accomplishments individuals and units have made throughout 2019. The weekend after the Rovies our Roventure Team will be hosting **Roventure 2020**. After a successful 2019 event, this year is set to be even better!

I would like to give a shout out to those many GWS Rovers who are members of their local SES and fire stations who are currently out in the field assisting with our bushfire crisis. Thank you all.

With so many exciting events coming up and crews beginning to program for the new term, it's looking to be an exciting and fulfilling 2020! *Kersten Young*

WE THANK YOU

Many of our GWS Rovers are members of their local rural fire brigades or are SES volunteers who assisted with fighting the bush fires. We thank you for your service, and could not be more appreciative of the work you have done and are still doing !



EVENTS FOR 2020

February RRC Meeting

Wednesday 5th February
Lethbridge Street Hall

The Rovies

Saturday 8th February
Toongabbie Sports Club \$45 pp

Roventure (Postponed due to flood)

Friday 14th - Sunday 16th February
Camp Ku-Ring-Gai \$50 pp

The Hunger Games Moot

Friday 28th - Sunday 1st March
Kariong Scout Camp
Pre-Sale \$35 (until 21st Feb) or \$40 at the door

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.

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