



Scouts Australia - NSW  
**Greater Western Sydney Region**  
**66th Annual Report**  
**2013**



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

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# Greater Western Sydney Region Team 2012-2013

REGION PRESIDENT ----- Alan Overton AM  
 REGION CHAIRMAN ----- Geoff McGrath  
 REGION TREASURER ----- Vacant  
 REGION COMMISSIONER ----- Neville Henderson  
 DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER ----- David Stopps  
 REGION OFFICE ASSISTANTS ----- Kim Harris & Maggi Roynon

## Region Commissioners

RC JOEY SCOUTS ----- Brian Zarth  
 RC CUB SCOUTS ----- Anne Thompson  
 RC SCOUTS ----- Robin Garrett  
 ASST. RC SCOUTS ----- Belinda Francis  
 RC VENTURER SCOUTS ----- Aaron Wardle  
 RC ROVERS ----- David Twist  
 ASST. RC ROVERS ----- Matt Lee  
 RC ACTIVITIES ----- Mark Fell  
 RC ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT ----- Kathy Cuneo  
 RC COMMUNICATIONS & PR ----- Matt Thompson  
 RC INTERNATIONAL ----- Peter Nickl  
 RC SPECIAL DUTIES ----- Tony Dent

## District Commissioners

DC BLACKTOWN ----- Ross Howlett  
 DC BLUE MOUNTAINS ----- Vacant  
 DC HAWKESBURY ----- Phil Heinrich  
 DC HILLS SOUTH ----- Gavan Hall  
 DC HOLROYD ----- Ron Brown  
 DC PARRAMATTA ----- Tracey Hansford  
 DC PENRITH CITY ----- Tony Dent (Acting)

## Region Patrons

Julie Owens MP  
 Federal member for Parramatta

Ray Williams MP  
 State member for Hawkesbury

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**Greater Western Sydney Region** incorporates all of the Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Parramatta and Penrith local government areas, as well as western parts of the Hornsby local government area.

**THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH  
GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION**

**Minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting of the Region Scout Council held at  
Bundilla Scout Camp on Sunday 24th June 2012, commencing at 2.30pm.**

PRESENT: Region President Alan Overton AM, Region Chairman Geoff McGrath and others as per attendance book.

APOLOGIES: As per attendance book.

WELCOME: Mr Alan Overton welcomed all those present.

PRESENTATION: By Chief Commissioner for NSW Mr Doug Menzies to James Chapman, 1st/2nd Merrylands for meritorious conduct.

**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the 2011 64th Annual General Meeting of the Region Council held Sunday 26th June 2011 were circulated in the Annual Report and adopted.

MOVED: Mrs Kathy Cuneo      SECONDED: Mr Gavan Hall

**2. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Mr Neville Henderson, Region Commissioner

To move the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statement

Mr Lyall Wood  
Member, State Executive Committee

To second the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statement

Anne Thompson  
Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts)

**ADDRESS BY Mr Ray Williams, State Member for Hawkesbury**

**ADDRESS BY Ms Louise Markus, Federal Member for Macquarie**

**APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT** by Neville Henderson, Region Commissioner

Appointment of Kathy Cuneo as Region Commissioner for Adult Training and Development

Appointment of Brian Zarth as Region Commissioner Joey Scouts

Appointment of Ann Pounder as Region Commissioner Member Support

**3. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

REGION PRESIDENT	Mr Alan Overton AM		
REGION CHAIRMAN	Mr Geoff McGrath	TRUSTEES	Region Commissioner
REGION TREASURER	Vacant		Mr Geoff McGrath
REGION MINUTES SECRETARY	Mrs Pamela Garske		Mrs Jan Playford
			Mr Peter Nickl

MOVED: Peter Stieme      SECONDED: Ron Brown

**4. ELECTION OF MEMBERS – REGION COUNCIL**

Mr Geoff McGrath	Mr L Wood AM RFD	Mrs Jan Playford	Mr Harry Anderson
Mr Peter Stieme	Mr Michael Majoors	Mr Paul Thompson	Mr Glenn Duncan
Ms Melissa Harding	Mrs Pamela Garske	Mr Graham Cuneo	Mr Paul Roach
Mrs Debbie Freeman	Mrs Patricia Shaw	Mr Peter Nickl	Mr David Stopps

THE LORD MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PARRAMATTA, THE MAYORS OF THE CITIES OF PENRITH, BLACKTOWN, HAWKESBURY, RYDE, HOLROYD, BLUE MOUNTAINS, THE HILLS, HORNSBY AND THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS OF THE GIRL GUIDES WITHIN GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION.

MOVED: Elston Hynd      SECONDED: Peter Stieme

**5. ELECTION OF MEMBERS – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Mrs Jan Playford	HONORARY COMMISSIONER
Mr Peter Nickl	REGION COMMISSIONER INTERNATIONAL
Mr David Stopps	REGION COMMISSIONER SPECIAL DUTIES
Mr Peter Stieme	DELEGATE PINNAROO SCOUT FELLOWSHIP
Mrs Melissa Harding	DELEGATE BLUE MOUNTAINS SCOUT FELLOWSHIP
Mr Lyall Wood AM RFD	DELEGATE CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW FELLOWSHIP
Mr Paul Thompson	DELEGATE HOLROYD DISTRICT
Mr Michael Majoors	DELEGATE PARRAMATTA DISTRICT
Mr Glenn Duncan	DELEGATE PENRITH DISTRICT
Mr Harry Anderson	DELEGATE BLACKTOWN DISTRICT
Mr Graham Cuneo	DELEGATE HILLS DISTRICT
Mrs Debbie Freeman	DELEGATE HAWKESBURY DISTRICT
Mrs Patricia Shaw	STATE COMMISSIONER CUB SCOUTS
Mrs Pamela Garske	MINUTES SECRETARY

MOVED: Gavan Hall

SECONDED: Chris McGrath

**6. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

That the meetings of the Region Executive Committee be held on the 3rd Monday of each month except January commencing at 7.30 pm and should that day be a public holiday the meeting will be held the following month.

**7. DELEGATES TO NSW STATE COUNCIL**

THE REGION COMMISSIONER  
THE REGION PRESIDENT  
THE REGION CHAIRMAN  
MRS JAN PLAYFORD  
MR PETER NICKL

MOVED: Gavan Hall

SECONDED: Peter Stieme

**8. ELECTION OF CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Producer/Director	Dr Robert Lang	Musical Director	Dr Jeanie Wood
Chairman	Mr Lyall Wood AM RFD	Technical Director	Mr Peter Lee
Secretary	Mrs Nicole Brooke	Promotion Director	Mr Bennett Lansley
Treasurer	Mrs Theresa Finch		

MOVED: Carol Cope

SECONDED: Gavan Hall

**9. ADDRESS BY Mr Doug Menzies, NSW Chief Commissioner**  
**ADDRESS BY Mr Peter Read, Chairman, State Executive Council**  
**ADDRESS BY Mr. Geoff Lee, State Member for Parramatta**

Mr. Alan Overton thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 3.05 pm followed by afternoon tea provided by Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship.

## REGION COMMISSIONER

It gives me great pleasure to present the 66th annual report of Greater Western Sydney Region. This is my third report as Region Commissioner.

Our Region consists of 45 groups, 5 Scout Fellowships and 10 Rover Crews. With the assistance of the Region Executive we have continued to keep an eye on properties which are currently in region control and do not have active scout groups in them. We have been able to allow community groups to utilise these buildings until we can reactivate scouting in these locations.

In the past 12 months, with input from the sectional Region Commissioners, we have been working to fulfil our five year plan and are currently looking at groups who need assistance and guidance to increase their numbers in order to remain viable. We are also looking at reopening a couple of groups who closed through a lack of youth in their locality and the demographics have now changed with older residents moving on and young families taking their place. We are also looking at relocating a group to one of our vacant region properties which is in a better feeder area for scouting. This is an ongoing program over the next four years.

The Region consists of seven districts, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Hills, Holroyd, Parramatta and Penrith. I had the pleasure to appoint Ross Howlett as the District Commissioner for Blacktown and Phil Heinrich as the District Commissioner for Hawkesbury. We were lucky to have Tony Dent transfer to our region as Region Commissioner special projects and Tony is looking after Penrith District at present. Welcome aboard to these three gentlemen.

I also had the pleasure to appoint Kathy Cuneo as Region Commissioner Adult Training and Development and Brian Zarth took over her previous role as Region Commissioner Joey Scouts. Belinda Francis came on board as Assistant Region Commissioner Scouts, Matt Lee as Assistant Region Commissioner Rover Scouts, Tracey Stopps as District Scout Leader for Blacktown



and John Aquilina as District Cub Scout Leader for Hawkesbury. I look forward to working with these leaders in the future and thank Phyllis McAlpine who has looked after the Cub Scouts in Hawkesbury for many years.

We had a very successful Adult Recognition Awards Presentation at Blacktown RSL in October with 193 people attending to see their friends and peers receive their award. Thanks to Julie Owens and Chief Commissioner Doug Menzies for presenting on the night. We had 73 scouting leaders and supporters nominated for awards in 2013.

It is great to have a good working relationship with Geoff McGrath and his Region Executive and it is with pleasure that I can report that for the first time in many years we have every district and four Fellowships represented. Thanks to Alan Overton our Region President and the Region Executive for your support of Geoff and scouting in general. David Stopps and I were invited to attend Julie Owens Christmas Party in December and also attended the Federal Cabinet night at Parramatta earlier in the year along with Graham Bargwanna

Thanks to the generosity of the Government we were able to replace the old florescent lights and some hot water services and a new refrigerator, all of which are more power efficient. Due to changes in laws relating to the standard of beds we were forced to purchase 26 new double bunks and 52 mattresses but were able to create another 15 single bunks to increase our sleeping capacity. David Stopps was also able to source a fence for the residence and this is almost completely installed and now gives some privacy to the house yard. This year we have to replace the smoke alarms with ones which are hardwired and are currently working on a grant application to fund these.

It is hard to operate without a good team behind you and my team is a special bunch of people who are dedicated to their duties, perform at an exceptionally high level and give up precious spare time to "do their best". Every section is running smoothly with region activities geared to the age of the participants and you will see from the section reports how busy they have been during the past year. I do not wish to single people out but must note the contribution of Matt Thompson as our webmaster and to Anne Thompson who does such a wonderful job on the Region Bulletin each month.

## REGION CHAIRMAN

To all the leaders and volunteer supporters who give so freely of their time to provide good scouting to the youth members I commend you on your commitment to scouting. Whether you wear a uniform or not, your dedication and time given freely is what keeps scouting going forward. We want you to know we couldn't do without you.

And finally to Kim and Maggi our office ladies, I am sure you will all join with me in thanking them for the time they dedicate to keeping this region running as efficiently as it does. We really couldn't do without them as part of our team.

I will be taking leave from later in the month and David Stopps will be looking after the region in my absence, I will have my laptop with me so I will still be in contact even though I am the other side of the country.

Until next time.....  
carry on Scouting.

*Neville Henderson*  
Region Commissioner



Another interesting year for the Region Executive who have been active during the year and it is pleasing to report that as at this meeting we now almost have delegates from all the districts as well as most of the five Scout Fellowships also have representatives.



We received some good news recently when a grant was approved by the State Executive Committee which will allow us to upgrade the Richmond Hall and we can then move 1st Hawkesbury Group from their current home in South Windsor which is in a state of disrepair.

We are pleased to see the number of scouting and community groups using our camp site but we are disappointed that more groups from GWS are not utilising this great facility. Unfortunately we were not successful with funding for some of the projects we are looking to do in the future at Bundilla. We have applied again during current round.

I must comment on the 2012 Awards Dinner at Blacktown RSL in October when almost 200 people were present to see the awarding of Good Service Awards. A special thanks to one of our patrons, Julie Owens and to our Chief Commissioner, Doug Menzies who assisted with the presentations. These events do not just happen and a big thank you goes to our excellent office ladies, Maggi and Kim who are always willing to assist with any task we ask them to perform.

Thanks to the Region Executive members for their support during the year and we look forward to an even better year in 2013/2014.

*Geoff McGrath*  
Region Chairman



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## The Scout Association of Australia - New South Wales Branch Greater Western Sydney Region Annual Report Cost of Operation Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2013

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	Administration		
	<i>Income</i>		
2,131	Saleable Items Income	2,329	2,100
950	Donation and Grants	450	-
461	Sundry Income	868	1,200
<u>3,542</u>		<u>3,647</u>	<u>3,300</u>
	<i>Expenditure</i>		
42,155	Salaries and On Costs	47,692	45,580
211	Staff Recruitment	-	-
2,140	Awards, Badges & Scarves	1,244	600
295	Computer Expenses	91	450
2,571	Depreciation	2,295	2,208
1,263	Meeting/Award Dinner Expenses, net of receipts	154	2,000
1,290	Postage	1,407	1,200
1,362	Printing & Stationery	1,647	1,620
6	Repairs & Maintenance	312	1,800
50	Saleable Items Cost	398	600
-	Security of Premises	340	1,200
1,802	Telephone	2,000	1,800
294	Sundry Expense	921	716
<u>53,439</u>		<u>58,501</u>	<u>59,774</u>
<u>(49,897)</u>	Net Administration Cost	<u>(54,854)</u>	<u>(56,474)</u>
<u>(1,874)</u>	Development & Promotion	<u>(356)</u>	<u>(2,873)</u>
	Camps & Activity Centres		
<u>(3,868)</u>	Bundilla	<u>(12,018)</u>	<u>(21,963)</u>
<u>(3,868)</u>		<u>(12,018)</u>	<u>(21,963)</u>
	Scouting Activities		
70	RC Section - Joeyes	(109)	(95)
1,980	RC Section - Cubs	2,605	790
5,853	RC Section - Scouts	12,344	2,681
1,039	RC Section - Venturers	2,390	1,315
(15)	RC Section - Rovers	(121)	(120)
5,844	RC Section - Activities	7,517	1,948
(544)	RC Section - Others	(1,533)	(588)
(200)	International Section	(240)	(240)
3,736	Gang Show	(4,240)	6,940
(500)	Districts	(752)	(1,476)
<u>17,263</u>		<u>17,861</u>	<u>11,155</u>
<u>6,283</u>	Leader Training	<u>332</u>	<u>1,065</u>
<u>(13,985)</u>	Property	<u>3,931</u>	<u>6,361</u>
<u>(46,078)</u>	Net Region Cost of Operation	<u>(45,104)</u>	<u>(62,729)</u>

Above summary is an extract from the audited accounts of The Scout Association of Australia, NSW Branch, for the year ended 31st March 2013

## REGION OFFICE

We have now completed our third year of service and have well and truly settled into the routine of running a Scouting office.

As we write this report we have just completed taking the applications for Joey Fun Day and the early bird Jamborette forms. It is amazing that leaders think that the close off date is the day you have to put the forms into the office. Occasionally it would be great if all the forms for an activity were in at least a week before close off. We can only dream.

We are probably preaching to the converted but if you arrive at the office at closing time you may be hurried off the premises as we also have children to collect from school and ferry around to Scouting and other activities.

The work load has increased with changes to the way the census is handled and we thank the groups who have sent in their paperwork on time and have made the transition easier for us. Remember, when things come in at the last minute and there is a problem we are not always able to find the correct information and get through within the set time frame. This may cause your group to pay fees they could otherwise have avoided.

Thanks to the visitors to the office who are patient when we are handling their enquiries or writing a receipt. It is nice to deal with pleasant people and makes the job enjoyable.

It is a pleasure to work with our region team and a special thanks must go to Geoff McGrath for the extra work he does around Bundilla and the way he is willing to sit and answer the phones when we are busy or have to go to the shops or the post office.

We look forward to an even better year in 2013.

*Kim Harris & Maggi Roynon*  
Office Assistants



## BUNDILLA SCOUT CAMP

It has been another big year at Bundilla with more upgrades.

New bunk beds were installed into the dorms. Special thanks to the Venturers and Rovers, and of course my family for helping with the assembly day we held.

We held a working bee with only 16 people attending. I would like to thank these people for their help.

The new lighting around the camp has been completed.

It takes a lot to keep the camp going, so this year I will be attempting to restart the Bundy Club - no it's not the drinking club! We will meet every second month on a night to be advised, to discuss Bundilla and any jobs that need doing. If you are interested in being part of the organisation of this group please contact me.

The camp has been used by many groups within our Region this year, some for the first time which was a surprise to me. So please bring along your youth members to a camp at Bundilla.

Tracey and I look forward to seeing you, if we can help make your time more enjoyable please do not hesitate to ask. Alternatively if you find something that needs attention please tell us so we can fix any problems in a timely fashion.

*David & Tracey Stopps*  
Caretakers  
Bundilla Scout Camp



## SECTION REPORTS

### JOEY SCOUTS

The last 12 months has seen a changing of the guard in the Joey Section. Kathy Cuneo completed her African Safari and moved on to training. From my past observations Kathy ran the Joey Section effortlessly now that I have taken up the role I now realise that Kathy left very big shoes to fill. Being new to the role it was at first a little overwhelming making sure that I covered off on everything. Some may say I might have over analysed things a little too much.

I have to thank Kathy, Lyn Mann (SCJS), Neville Henderson and more recently Tony Dent for being great sounding boards and keeping me on the straight and narrow. A special thank you goes to Dean Maddock who took care of the RCJS role while Kathy was in South Africa and for organising the Joey Scout Fun Day.

Over the last year we tried to focus on rebuilding Joeys at a District Level. Valerie Lockman was appointed District Leader Joey Scouts for the Hills District and we welcome Charlie "Jock" McLean from South Met to the District Leader Joey Scouts role for Blacktown and Penrith Districts. Leonnie Plummer has taken on the role of Wandarrah leader for Parramatta District. Wandarrahs are now regularly held at Region Level and in 3 districts.



The 2012 Joey Scout Fun Day was held in May and had an "International" theme. While our Region Commissioner, Kathy Cuneo was on Safari in Africa, 160+ Joeys were on safari around Bundilla. Bases included boat races on the river Nile in Egypt, Caving in New Zealand, Archery in England, Hunting in Africa, Climbing the Himalayas. The day was an impressive showcase of the quality and professionalism of Scouting in the Region. Feedback from Parents and Joeys was unanimously positive.

The Joey Section has a very transient membership with a membership turnover every 2 years. This means that our Joey Leaders are constantly on the go to recruit new members and leaders. This means that groups with Joey Mobs grow. This year saw the registration of new Joey Mobs at 1st Emu Plains and at 1st Parramatta. Unfortunately 1st South Penrith Joeys had to go into recess due to a lack of leaders, lets hope they can turn that around in the next 12 months.

This year we've tried to promote Mob Holidays and getting out and about. It hasn't been too successful. A lot of leaders appear to be very time poor and unfortunately we have many mobs with only 1 appointed leader. We really need to increase our leadership base so that we can not just create great weekly meeting programs, but get the OUT back in to scouting.

In keeping the Out in Scouting we have continued to promote the Trek About Badge for bush walks. Several mobs took advantage of this, we also receive many requests for the badge from other regions.

Over the next year we look forward to our 2013 Joey Fun Day "This is Australia" in May and the yet to be announced 2014 GWS Woonona, region camp for Joeys.

A special congratulations to the following 35 Joey Scouts on achieving their Promise Challenge Badge.



- Emma Cutbush .....1st Toongabbie
- Daniel Sharp .....1st Dural
- Sophie Fry.....1st Toongabbie
- Joshua Baker.....1st Greystanes
- Dallas Owen.....1st Carlingford
- Dylan Chung .....1st Carlingford
- Alec Kelly .....1st Quakers Hill-Doonside
- Rachael Nichols .....1st Quakers Hill-Doonside
- Tyrone Freeman .....1st Quakers Hill-Doonside
- Johnny Manessi .....1st Quakers Hill-Doonside
- Marcus Henderson .....1st North Rocks
- Emelia Macarthur .....1st North Rocks
- Lucy Stevens .....1st Carlingford

Thomas Wilby.....1st Carlingford  
 Justin O'Reilly .....1st South Penrith  
 Brendan Zarth.....1st South Penrith  
 Jye Abberton .....1st South Penrith  
 Jack Pearce .....1st South Penrith  
 Caitlin Gray-Jones .....1st South Penrith  
 Dale Abnett.....2nd Kings Langley  
 Lucy Marie Durant.....1st Oakville  
 Mitchell Dodge .....1st North Rocks  
 Gemma Ryan .....1st Kings Langley  
 Daniel Ryan.....1st Ermington  
 Lucy White.....1st Carlingford  
 Charlize Walters.....1st Carlingford  
 Abigail Kinloch .....1st Quakers Hill-Doonside  
 Angel Poi.....1st Carlingford  
 Aleksandr Zhigunov .....1st Carlingford  
 Raymond Leslie .....1st Quakers Hill-Doonside  
 Luke Vaughan .....1st Winston Hills  
 Mitchell Owen .....1st North Rocks  
 Campbell Grant .....1st North Rocks  
 Blake Wood .....1st North Mt Druitt

In Greater Western Sydney, we are blessed with a fantastic team of dedicated Joey Leaders. I want to thank them all for investing their time, effort and resources into our Joey Scouts. Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Brian Zarth

Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)

## CUB SCOUTS

Another busy Scouting year is over, but no time to rest, as we hurtle into another action packed year ahead!

**Cub Fun Day** in May was a huge success. We had a lovely sunny day and over 400 attendees! There was plenty to see and do – thanks to Mark Fell and his team who ran the Climbing Wall, Peter Nickl and his team who organised the International display and my team who organised fun activity bases for the Cub Scouts. Thank you to all the Cub Scout Leaders who supported the event by bringing their packs along or by assisting on bases – we could not have done it without you. Thank you also to Geoff McGrath and Paul Thompson for manning the registration table and helping out wherever they were needed and Dave Stopps for helping sort out any issues on the day.

**Palanee** was held in August, with the theme “Come on Down, the Night is Right”, based on TV quiz/challenge shows. All thirty participants had a fun night and many were lucky to leave with a nice prize from our lucky draw. Palanees and Palavers are a great opportunity



to meet up with fellow Leaders, have fun and gain some Programming ideas. It is such a shame that not all Cub Scout Leaders and Youth Helpers attend this fun, training event and very disappointing to my team, who put in so much time and effort into organising the activities, to have such a poor participation rate. We hope that we have an overwhelming attendance at our **Palaver** (*Jungle Safari*) in May.

Our **Cub Scout Leadership Courses** have continued to provide our young people the chance to develop leadership skills and share ideas with fellow Cub Scouts. One hundred Cubs participated in two courses conducted at Bundilla in September and March. They really enjoyed themselves, thanks to the wonderful games and activities organised by the Region Seeonee team and the delicious food prepared by members of Westmead Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship and the Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship.

One hundred and fifty Cub Scouts, Leaders, Scouts and Youth Helpers took part in **Cub Baanya**, our annual camp for older Cub Scouts held at Bundilla in October. The weather was perfect and the Region Seeonee team ran some great bases for everyone to enjoy. My sincere thanks to; Westmead Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship members, who ran an excellent Mapping base, the Scouts who gave up their weekend to help the Cubs camp in Patrols and Jo Hillyard CSL 1st Blaxland, who once again organised a brilliant Campfire for us.

We had just five participants at our annual **Youth Helpers Course**, but they proved to be keen and enthusiastic and the course was well worth running despite the low numbers! These young people provide invaluable help to the Leaders they work with and are great mentors for the youth members. How wonderful it would be to have a Youth Helper in every Mob and Pack in the Region. Thank you to members of the Region Seeonee team and Brian Zarth RC Joey Scouts, who presented the sessions.

Congratulations to all the Cub Scouts who have achieved their **Grey Wolf Award** and well done to the Leaders who helped them achieve this award. I hope you are making good use of the Jungle Book resources the Cub Scouts have created for you and their Packs. A total of forty seven Grey Wolf Awards have been earned during the past twelve months.

The 5th NSW Cuboree (*Once Upon a Time*) will take place at Cataract Scout Park from January 6 to 10, 2014. Currently Leaders are busy promoting the event, organising their Packs and assisting parents with the on-line applications. GWSR is also running a fun activity base (*Wish Upon a Star*) in conjunction with the Golden West Region and both Charlene Bordley and I are well into planning the activities and recruiting helpers for the base. Three shakedown camps have been booked for the latter part of this year to ensure the camps will run smoothly and safely at Cuboree.

**District Update:** We have had a number of changes in some of our Districts;

Chris Casley resigned as DLCS for Penrith South due to ill health; Melissa Cahill resigned as DLCS for Parramatta due to work and sport commitments; and Phyllis McAlpine resigned as DLCS for Hawkesbury District after fifteen years' service on the Region Seonee Team, to return to 1st Hawkesbury as ACSL. Thank you to all three Leaders for all their efforts on behalf of their Districts and best wishes for the future. We welcome John Aquilina CSL 1st Hawkesbury to the fold, and thank him for taking on the role of DLCS Hawkesbury District.

Parramatta District continues without a DLCS, but Virginia Klomp CSL 1st Ermington and the Cub Scout Leaders are doing a great job of rotating Seonees through all the Groups and sending a representative to Region Seonee.

Jeff Hook CSL 1st Westmead continues to do a great job as Seonee Leader for Holroyd District. Jeff has had a big year; finally achieving his hard earned PhD and officially clocking up thirty years of Service as an Adult Leader in Scouting, not to mention all his years as a Cub Scout right through to Rovers. Congratulations Jeff for all your dedication, hard work and support.

Melissa Harding DLCS Blue Mountains, Alison Sullivan DLCS Blacktown District, Gabie Thompson DLCS Hills South District and Region Advisors Shirley Robinson and Charlene Bordley continue to spend countless hours in the service of Scouting. They make a wonderful Region Seonee Team and I can't thank them enough for all their hard work and support. I would also like to encourage all Cub Scout Leaders to show their support for their

District Leaders by attending District Seonee regularly and taking part in all District and Region activities and events.

**Thank you** to Kim and Maggie in Region Office for all their hard work, patience, support and organisational

skills; Dave Stopps for his friendly advice and assistance during our events at Bundilla; Tricia Shaw, State Commissioner Cub Scouts, for cooking on Leadership Courses and always visiting our special events and finally thank you to our Region Commissioner, Neville Henderson for all his support and encouragement, the generous use of Bundilla for our meetings and activities and for taking the time to visit the Cub Scouts and have a chat with the Leaders at Region events.

Anne Thompson (Wontoffa)  
Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts)

## Grey Wolf Awards 2012-2013

### 1st Blaxland

Michael Hillyard  
Anna-Leigh Skene  
Daniel Carter  
Christopher Orme  
Jack Maddock

### 1st Carlingford

Kristopher Ho  
Isaac Stammering  
Louis Gingell  
Gregory Mooney  
Ajit Pillai

### 1st Castle Hill

Scott Camley

### 1st Dural

Jack Rose

### 1st Ermington

Lucy McCredden  
Sarah Collins

### 1st Greystanes

Christopher Fias-Ayon  
Joshua Overton  
Maria Coco

### 1st Granville

Nathan Langborne  
Jennifer Lytwyn  
Isabella Hockey

### 1st Hazelbrook

Lachlan Hibbard  
Noah Hammond  
Owen Drake

### 1st Hawkesbury

Joshua Wilson

### 1st Kellyville

Ethan Battam  
Michelle Hallis

### 1st Kings Langley

Tamieka Barden  
Yvette Barden

### 2nd Kings Langley

Jack Skinner  
Matthew Flavell  
Merrick Horam

### 1st/2nd Merrylands

Matthew Cameron

### 1st North Rocks

Lachlan Napier  
Sophie Black  
Hayden Davis

### 1st Oakville

Chloe Harris

### 1st Parramatta

Jonathan Myers

### 1st South Penrith

Ben Sayers  
Casey Neal  
Myah Riley

### 1st St Marys

Rebecca Galea  
Joshua Matthews  
Matthew Duncan

### 1st Winston Hills

George Sollom  
Jayden McEwan  
Nicholas Verwoerd  
James Brush

## SCOUTS

The last twelve months have been an incredibly busy period for the Scout section with the excitement that comes from the lead up to an Australian Jamboree. In this case it was the 23rd Australian Jamboree held in Maryborough, Queensland, from 2 to 12 January 2013. With 349 Scouts and 100 Leaders from GWSR – 13% of the entire NSW Contingent – our youth and adult members experienced some ‘beautiful one day, perfect the next’ Queensland weather, took part in some fabulous activities, and enjoyed superb entertainment night after night, including Jessica Mauboy, Reece Mastin, and Timomatic. As well, our Leaders contributed to the two million volunteer hours that together delivered a great Jamboree experience for more than 11,000 participants. You can see images of AJ2013 by visiting the NSW Media Aj2013 page on Facebook or by going to [www.aj2013.patroltent.com](http://www.aj2013.patroltent.com) and clicking on the AJ Photos tab. If you did not follow the Jamboree activities day by day like almost 30,000 family and friends from around Australia, you can download all 11 editions of Jambo Mambo newsletters from the AJ Newsletters tab on this same website. A big ‘thank you’ to all the GWS participants at AJ2013 for representing our Region so pleasingly.

Leading up to Jamboree our Scouts and Leaders showed some great skills at their pre-Jam shakedown camps. A look around these 11 camps demonstrated that we have some very experienced Scouts and some excellent Leaders teaching our youth members. Conversely, it was also evident where some knowledge and skills are lacking. One of our aims in the coming year is to put in place opportunities for Scouts and Leaders to learn and to refresh their skills.

Once again, we held as successful Jamborette at Bents Basin in June 2013. With a theme of ‘Scouts vs Wild’, Scouts enjoyed activities such as the Flying Fox (voted best base by the Scouts), Survival and Electric Bear, while working toward the Jamborette Award of a unique woggle. Over 860 Scouts and Leaders took part in the 2012 Jamborette with no major incidents, unless you count the questionable – and also unique – dancing by some Leaders on the disco night. (Yes, we saw you and you know who you are!) The facilities worked well, overall, as did the rotation of Districts to allow more space for those Districts who had experienced greater growth than some others. Where things might not have gone totally to plan, we have incorporated those learnings into our strategy for subsequent Jamborettes. My thanks go to the many Leaders who designed, created and executed the bases, providing a memorable experience for our Scouts.

During the year, GWSR Scouts and Leaders took part in a number of activities both in and outside our Region: Scout Hike in the Belanglo State Forest in May; State Rally at Cataract Scout Park in August; and Sirius Cup at Balmoral Beach in March.

As well, we were pleased to see that a number of our Districts continued with their commitment to the Scout Youth Council (SYC) program. SYC is an opportunity for Scouts to be part of the decision making process involved in moulding Scouting to ensure it remains something relevant, contemporary and fulfilling for our youth. Thank you to Gabriela, Nicholas, Jacob and Emily – our Region SYC representatives – for their focus during the year.

In February 2013 I was pleased to welcome Belinda ‘Boomer’ Francis into the role of Assistant Commissioner (Scouts). Bel comes to the Region team from West Pennant Hills Valley where she was Assistant Scout Leader and Group Leader, and following her two and a half years as Director of Media and Promotions (NSW Contingent) for AJ2013. Bel’s focus will be on youth programming and development, including evangelising and developing SYC in GWS. Welcome to the team, Bel!

Before closing my summary of the year, I’d like to recognise and congratulate the Scouts who have been awarded the Australian Scout Medallion (ASM) and those who have achieved their Green Cord. As was seen last year, the quality of ASM projects has been remarkable. Bel and I will be working to encourage more Scouts to attempt the ASM and Green Cord in the coming year. B-R-A-V-O to you all!



Lastly, I’d like to personally thank Phil ‘Kanga’ Crutchley who stepped down in March from the role of State Commissioner (Scouts), following over six years of quality leadership, thoughtful guidance and memorable friendship. Good luck, Phil, in your new Scouting role. Our new State Commissioner (Scouts) is Randall Jones. I welcome Randall and look forward to working with him and his new State team.

Thank you to my team of Region and District Leaders who have supported and helped me in the last year.

Robin ‘Batman’ Garrett  
Region Commissioner (Scouts)

# VENTURER SCOUTS

The Venturer Scout program has continued with great intensity over the past twelve months. Our Annual Region Venturer Camp – Waratah – was another great success, and our international participation grew with a very good representation in the Australian Contingent to Venture South. Unfortunately our overall membership has noticeably decreased at the beginning of this year, however the great news is that many of these departing Venturers have indeed linked to Rovers. Meanwhile, we are optimistic of many Scouts joining the Venturer section later this year after having attended the Australian Jamboree at Maryborough in January.



The Knights of Camelot arrived at Camp Coutts in November for Waratah 2012. 19 teams attended the event representing Units from across the Region for a weekend of fun activities.

I must add my greatest of thanks to all of the Leaders and Rovers for their huge effort in making Waratah 2012 the success it was. Catering exceeded all expectations with an absolutely amazing banquet on Saturday evening. Support succeeded in having no serious injuries across the weekend. Admin and Comms kept the weekend on track in one of our tightest competitions ever. Sites and Services must be applauded for ensuring the campsite was left cleaner than when we arrived. All of our staff on Activities must be congratulated on the creativity of the Quests. And our Command team - ably led by King Arthur (aka Matt Vella) - made sure that everything came together in such an enjoyable weekend.

Following the final battle, the victors of the weekend competition were crowned as team Godspeed with Venturers from 1st Westmead, 1st Winston Hills and 1st Canley Vale.



This year's camp also saw the official launch of our Waratah Activity Fellowship with the first 11 members invested by the Branch Commissioner for Scout Fellowships. This new Fellowship will allow us to recruit many supporters

of the event back into the association which provides great leverage for securing the future of Waratah in years to come.

Well done to everyone on an excellent weekend and we look forward to another amazing event later this year in Waratah 2013 – The Amazing Race!

The Venturer section was busy during the January school holidays with several leaders volunteering at the Australian Jamboree in Maryborough and a huge contingent of over 30 Venturers attending the New Zealand Venture in Riverton. I was fortunate to meet up with members from the Region at both events and must congratulate our Venturers on being excellent ambassadors for the Region.

Whilst Maryborough was tremendously hot, the event ran very smoothly. I would like to make mention of the Venturer Leaders from 2nd Baulkham Hills and 1st Carlingford (Mick, Joanne, David and Teresa) on their award winning gateway for NSW Contingent. It was an absolute standout in the mall and a tribute to months of hard work and dedication.

In Riverton, the weather was not surprisingly much cooler and a pleasant change from two weeks in Queensland. I got to enjoy several of the onsite activities including model aircraft flying and a spirited round of paintball, as well as visiting some of the off-site activities including high ropes, the Invercargill day out, and a stopover in Bluff. The pre-tour was probably the biggest highlight of the journey and full congratulations must go to Gary Steinhardt and his team for organising such an amazing adventure. With roughly two Australians for every Kiwi, it almost felt like being at home, but the traditional Maori culture certainly showed through with some great cultural entertainment and a rather interesting haka competition – especially when performed by the Australians! Needless to say, the Venturers had a wonderful journey in New Zealand and I am sure that many will be looking forward to other exciting international events in the future.

This year's Dragon Skin was held at Belanglo State Forest on the Easter long weekend. A total of 98 Venturers participated



in the event from GWS Region with a team from 1st Springwood achieving our highest score of 726 finishing in 20th position.

Finally, I am very pleased to confirm that four Queen's Scout Awards were awarded during the past year to Joshua Bordley (1st Kings Langley); Scott Robertson (1st Hazelbrook); Amber Bolton (1st/2nd Merrylands); and Patrick Watts (1st Oakville).

With the end of another great year, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my Region Team and to all of the Adult Leaders, Fellowship Members and Youth Members in the Region that have contributed to the year's success.

*Aaron Wardle*

Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts)

## ROVERS

Throughout the 2012/13 year the number of Rovers has stayed around 120 members. These numbers are spread among 10 crews from all over the region.

Over the past year the Rovers have participated in various activities. These included Dragon Skin, ANZAC Day dawn services and marches, St Georges Day, Jamborette, Region Moots, Hike for Hunger, Waratah, Formal Macca's Dinner, YACS, and Service to scouting as well as many other service activities.

The main major event that the Rovers are involved in is Dragon Skin. As the VOCs are mainly ran by Rovers we had numerous roles. These included 5-6 activity bases, help on sites and services, setting up VOC, communications, catering, night activities, transport and first aid. There was also Rovers helping with admin and general Dragon Skin organising.



The RRC Exec for the coming year has many new faces in it. The new members on the exec are very keen to get the things happening. The plan is to have Rovers again recognised in the Region as a strong section of Scouting. These changes have already started.

At our AGM, the Region put forward a recommendation to appoint Matt Lee as Assistant Region Commissioner Rovers. This position is to help David Twist with his duties as Region Commissioner Rovers.

Our goals for the upcoming year are to promote the section to all other sections in Scouting. There was recently a survey done and the result was the members of Scouting had no idea of what Rovers do. We will target the Venturer section but we intend that all sections will know who we are and what we do.

Yours in Roving,

*Mitchell Shaw*

Rover - Kings Langley Rovers

Region Rover Council Chairman 2013-14

*David Twist*

Region Commissioner (Rovers)

*Matthew Lee*

Assist. Region Commissioner (Rovers)

## 2012 ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS



### **SILVER KANGAROO – for Eminent Achievement and Meritorious Service**

SHAW, Patricia ----- NSW Branch Commissioner (Cub Scouts), formerly RC (Cub Scouts) GWS Region

### **NATIONAL PRESIDENT’S AWARD – for Eminent Achievement and Meritorious Service**

WOOD, Lyall AM RFD----- Fellowship Chairman, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship



### **SILVER EMU – for Sustained and Exceptional Service**

CLAPHAM, John ----- SL, 1st Springwood Scout Troop



### **SILVER KOALA – for Distinguished Service**

CORNELL, Suzanne----- ACSL, 1st Toongabbie Cub Pack

### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – for Distinguished Service**

GARSKE, Pamela----- Fellowship Treasurer, Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship

SHAW, Stephen----- Fellowship Chairman, Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship



### **SILVER WATTLE – for Outstanding Service**

MCLEAN, Michelle ----- CSL, 1st North Mt Druitt Cub Pack

SAVILLE, George ----- CSL, 1st Mt Druitt Cub Pack ‘Cobra’



### **SILVER ARROWHEAD – for Excellent Service**

CHAPMAN, Karen ----- JSL, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St. Anne’s) Joey Mob

COFFILL, Linda ----- SL, 1st Grose Vale Scout Troop

DAINES, Glenn ----- SL, 1st Whalan Scout Troop

FARR, Paul ----- ASL, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St. Anne’s) Scout Troop

HOWLETT, Ross----- DSL, Blacktown District

MARSHALL, Ian ----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show

MILLS, Warwick----- ASL, 1st Dural Scout Troop ‘Giwang’

ROBERTS, Bruce ----- ACSL, 1st Granville Cub Pack

STOCK, Lorraine----- GL, 1st Mt Druitt Scout Group

THOMPSON, Matt ----- RC (Communications & PR) Greater Western Sydney

VARVEL, David ----- ASL, West Pennant Hills Valley Scout Troop

WARDLE, Karina ----- AJSL, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St. Anne’s) Joey Mob

### **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT – For Good Service**

BARTLETT, Amanda ----- Group Chairman, 1st Carlingford Scout Group

BROWNE, Peter----- AVSL, West Pennant Hills Valley

BURTON, Alan----- Committee Member, 1st North Rocks Scout Group

CHAMBERLAIN ----- Joanne – JSL, 1st Kings Langley Joey Mob

CHIN, Richard----- SL, 1st Blaxland Scout Troop ‘Erskine’

CONN, Phillip ----- ACSL, 1st Grose Vale Cub Pack

DAVIS, Peter	Group Deputy Chairman, 1st Murray Farm Scout Group
EWINGS, Nerida	VSL, 1st Ermington Venturer Unit
FAIRALL, Karen	AJSL, 1st Cambridge Park Joey Mob
FLAVELL, Mark	CSL, 2nd Kings Langley Cub Pack 'Waminda'
GIBBS, Michael	ASL, 1st Mt Druitt Scout Troop
GRAY, Faye	AL(G), 1st/2nd Merrylands (St. Anne's) Scout Group
GREEN, Jodie	CSL, 1st Kings Langley Cub Pack
GREEN, Kylie	AJSL, 1st Kings Langley Joey Mob
GREEN, Peter	Supporter, 1st Blaxland Scout Group
GROSS, Benjamin	ACSL, 1st Rydalmere Cub Pack
HARRIS, Kim	Region Office Manager, Greater Western Sydney Region
HASLAM, Leanne	ASL, 1st Kellyville Scout Group
HEINRICH, Phillip	AL(G), 1st Hawkesbury Scout Group
HENRY, Christopher	ASL, 1st Castle Hill Scout Troop
HENRY, Terri	formerly ASL, 1st Castle Hill Scout Group
HUDSON, Michael	AJSL, 1st Blaxland Joey Mob 'Python'
KLOMP, Virginia	CSL, 1st Ermington Cub Pack 'Blaxland'
LESSLIE, Shaun	VSL, 1st Kellyville Venturer Unit
MCBRIDE, Peter	formerly AVSL, 1st Blaxland Venturer Unit
MCKINLEY, David	SL, 1st Kings Langley Scout Troop
MUIR, Anne	JSL, 1st Toongabbie Joey Mob
MYERS, David	SL, 1st Parramatta Scout Troop
PILLAI, Krishnakumar	GL, 1st Carlingford Scout Group
POLLOCK, Sonia	formerly ACSL, 2nd Kings Langley Cub Pack 'Waminda'
PRESTON, Margaret	AJSL, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St. Anne's) Joey Mob
ROBERTS, Craig	AVSL, 1st North Rocks Venturer Unit
SHAW, Mitchell	SL, 1st Toongabbie Scout Troop
SHEPPARD, Wendy	AVSL, 2nd Baulkham Hills Venturer Unit
SIMPSON, Julia	formerly ACSL, 1st Parramatta Cub Pack now with 1st Berowra Cub Pack
STOPPS, Tracey	ASL, 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Troop
TALLIS, Brett	ACSL, 1st Kellyville Cub Pack 'Zazu'
TYLER, Joanne	VSL, 2nd Baulkham Hills Venturer Unit
WADLING, Eric	Committee Member, 1st Grose Vale Scout Troop
WALLACE, Kelly	AL(G), 1st North Mt Druitt Scout Group
WEST, Timothy	SL, 1st Hawkesbury Scout Troop
WOOD, Katherine	ACSL, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St. Anne's) Cub Pack

## Adult Recognition Awards

These awards are announced annually on August 1 - World Scout Day.

They are awarded to both uniform and non-uniform adults in Scouting.

Any adult member can nominate someone for an award. The awards are for sustained and exceptional service, over and above their normal role in Scouting.

The nomination process is a documented procedure and needs to be submitted to Region Office by February of the same year. Region then submits them to the State Awards Committee who review the recommendations and then approve or reject them. This committee then forwards their recommendations to the Chief Commissioner of NSW.

The Awards are normally worn on Scouting occasions such as Annual General Meeting's, Good Service Award presentations and on any other formal Scouting occasion, when it is stated that Scouting Decorations may be worn. Awardees should wear their medals on these occasions and be proud that their peers have acknowledged them for not only 'doing their best' but giving 110%.

## ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Adult training and development is a continuous process. We all continue learning throughout our scouting life. To help us we have support systems at Group, District, Region, State and National levels. The news and documents being used are always in a state of change to reflect societal changes. Now we have the term "living documents" added to our vocabulary. The e-learning environment is one where living documents feature heavily so leaders are asked to keep up with the changes by reviewing the modules regularly.

In real terms this means that training leaders need to set a time limit for completing the modules compared to the initial idea of doing them in their own time. Without a time limit, leaders could find themselves in a continuous state of reviewing. At the initial interview we now ask new leaders to realistically choose a weekend residential course to aim for.

Having successfully introduced e-learning as a training method for basic training, the National team has now introduced e-learning for advanced training. Advanced modules are on-line and can be completed by anyone logged on to e-learning. Those leaders who have a CoAL can apply for e-learning and only do the advanced modules, although it is suggested that they complete the basic modules at some time to update their scouting knowledge and skills.

W.O.S.M. (World Organization of Scouting Movements) has decreed that a leader in scouting should only complete one wood badge to extend their skills, so from the end of 2012 only one wood badge will be presented. Leaders can do the advanced training in other sections but will not do a second project or be awarded a second wood badge.

The big change for 2012/2013 is the introduction of the SIS10 activities training and assessment. The introduction has been a bigger job than at first anticipated by the State team and is taking longer than first thought. As more leaders have their qualifications recognized it will become easier. Praise must be given to Mark Fell who maintained that, through all the upheaval with getting qualifications recognized, the scouting youth of our Region should not be disadvantaged. On behalf of all those youth members-thank you Mark and your team.

2013 has also seen the reduction in the number of training centres being used. Courses are now only being offered at Cataract, Pennant Hills and Glenrock with one course a year being offered at Glenreagh in Coffs Harbour and Kurrajong in Wagga Wagga. It is important that leaders book for all courses at least one month beforehand so that if the numbers are not up to the minimum the course can be cancelled. If courses have to be cancelled we will not be offered the same number of courses in future.

The training team of GWS Region consists of a number of leaders who help present sessions at training courses and a larger number of leaders who are PLAs (Personal Leader Advisors) that help training leaders with the everyday questions that occur. A big thank you must go to all these people who help and support new leaders. The reward is to see a leader that you have helped through the training process successfully take their place in a section and group.

I would like to acknowledge the help and support of Adam McLean who has now moved to be Branch Commissioner for Adult Training and Development in the Northern Territory. While part of the GWSR training team he was very efficient as a record keeper for the 200+ leaders we have in training and was very knowledgeable about the different sections so was able to answer most queries. His expertise will be missed.

*Kathy Cuneo*  
Region Commissioner  
(Adult Training & Development)

### GWSR 2012-2013 Wood Badge Recipients

#### Joey Scout Section

Kathryn Peirce, 1st North Rocks

#### Cub Scout Section

Noriko Burrows, 1st Carlingford  
Jeanette Frost, 1st Toongabbie  
Lisa Nicholls, 1st/2nd Blacktown  
Stuart Wood, 1st/2nd Merrylands

#### Scout Section

Linda Martin, 1st North Rocks  
Bryan Rigg, 1st Carlingford  
Alison Mountford, 1st Carlingford  
Glenn Daines, 1st Whalan

#### Leader of Adults

Gavan Hall, Hills South District

## COMMUNICATIONS & PR

The Region website was first created back in January 2008. Since then, it has continued to be a reliable source of news, events, resources and other relevant information for our leaders and youth members. Unfortunately, the software that drives it had become outdated and non-upgradeable, so a complete re-write was necessary in July last year. I would like to particularly thank Brian Zarth for his assistance in this re-build and all the Commissioners for their input. I really appreciate the many comments and suggestions that I receive regarding our website, many of which have already been implemented on the website.

Our Region email distribution list is used to send out email notifications to all subscribers as each new edition of our monthly newsletter is available for download. I strongly encourage all leaders to carefully read them, as they contain very important information about Scouting in GWS. If you are not receiving the emails,

then log onto our website and subscribe yourself on the front page. You can also download each Bulletin by clicking on the Bulletin link.

This year I saw a number of fantastic articles in local newspapers showing our communities how alive and exciting Scouting is for our youth members. Please keep up the great work! Don't forget to make use of the one free promo pack per year that NSW State Office offer to every group (see advertisement on the NSW State website).

I would like to thank our Bulletin Editor, Anne Thompson for all the hard work and many hours she puts into collating articles and publishing our monthly newsletter.

I would like to thank Neville and the Region Team for their continued support and assistance. Have a great year ahead in Scouting.

*Matt Thompson*  
Region Commissioner  
(Communications & PR)

## INTERNATIONAL

Our Region has experienced a great year in International activities and events.

The International Team mounted displays/activities at the following events:

- 18th Gippsland Corroboree, Tylers Junction, Victoria
- Joey Scout Funday, Bundilla
- Club Scout Funday, Bundilla
- Region Jamboree, Bents Basin
- 6th Blacktown Games, Nurragingy, Glendenning
- Back to Bundilla Day
- Greater Western Sydney Region had members in attendance at the following International events:
- National Scout Jamboree Finland, Aaron Wardle Region Commissioner Venturers
- National Scout Jamboree Iceland, Aaron Wardle Region Commissioner Venturers
- 24th Asia Pacific Scout Conference, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Peter Nickl Region Commissioner International
- 12th New Zealand Venture Riverton South Island (33 from our Region with Robert Slater 1st

Westmead Rover Crew, Deputy Contingent Leader. This Australian Contingent was the largest to an International event comprising 534 Venturers and Leaders).

In addition to the foregoing Greater Western Sydney Region members had the following overseas experiences:

- Sue Kebblewhite, Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship, USA
- Aaron Wardle, Region Commissioner Venturers, New Zealand
- Aaron Wardle, Region Commissioner Venturers, Japan
- Harry Provins, Kings Langley Rover Crew, UK (attending two International Scout Jamborees and four Rover Moots/Camps)

The Greater Western Sydney Region International Static Display played a major role in the International activities at AJ2013 (23rd Australian Jamboree) held in Maryborough, Queensland as part of the National/International Tent.

There were 251 International Scouts in attendance from 13 countries.

At the International Showcase Presentation, Pennant Hills, Nicole Avery 1st Riverstone spoke of her experiences in Japan with the Scout International Student Exchange Program.

We had Leaders from Denmark, England and Hong Kong visit during the year.

We assisted in despatching four boxes of Scouting items to Papua New Guinea as well as distributing a further ten boxes to overseas Contingents during AJ 2013.

The continued support, assistance, commitment and encouragement from members of our Team is very much appreciated, for without it we would not have been able to accomplish so much.

In closing, and on behalf of the International Team, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Neville Henderson, Kim Harris and Maggie Roynon for their support and assistance, given to us in achieving what we have in our Region on behalf of International Scouting.

*Peter Nickl*

Region Commissioner (International)

## SPECIAL NEEDS SCOUTING

The Special Needs Team supports youth members and Leaders across GWS in a variety of ways. In the past 12 months we have put together a **Disability Awareness Program**. The program is a very interactive session designed to increase disability awareness, raise and discuss relevant issues, and provide leaders with some strategies for supporting and including youth with special needs in the Scouting. We have successfully run the program several times in GWS and look forward to more enquiries. Thanks to a generous donation from Wentworthville Scout Group we will be able to purchase new wheelchairs and equipment for the program.

In the past year we have answered many enquiries from leaders who have concerns regarding a youth member with special needs. Whether by email, phone, or in person the team act as a resource pool of experience and we have successfully assisted in many situations.

The **Special Needs Conference** is held annually at Pennant Hills. In 2012 several leaders from GWS were able to attend and this year, 27-28th July we hope to have many more. The conference provides an opportunity for us to discuss many of the issues surrounding support for youth with special needs. Topics covered in the past included asthma, diabetes, juvenile arthritis, medications, ADHD, Aspergers and Autism, ideas for programming, and music therapy.

Participants may also obtain a statement of attainment for the unit CHCDIS301B – work effectively with people with a disability.

The **Agoonoree** in 2012 was held at Camp Chapman at Sommersby. The camp was attended by 77 leaders and youth, including a handful from GWS. In 2013 the camp will be held at Glenfield Scout Activity Centre 27-30 September. The camp is especially for youth with special needs, but we welcome all youth and leaders. Get your army gear on and come to “Boot Camp” to support kids with disabilities. On the Saturday we will also welcome day visitors.

In GWS most Scout Groups would find they have several children with special needs. It was fantastic to see a few of these Scouts at AJ2013. Thank you to the leaders and families who made this possible. It is crucial that we recognise the need for kids with disabilities to be fully included in all the programs that we provide, including the larger events. For the first time the Special Needs Team were able to provide 2 wheelchairs for the NSW contingent. By providing this small resource we were able to improve the experience of some of our Scouts at Jamboree.



*Cassie Rec*

Representative for GWS

and Golden West, NSW Scouts Special Needs Team



## ACTIVITIES

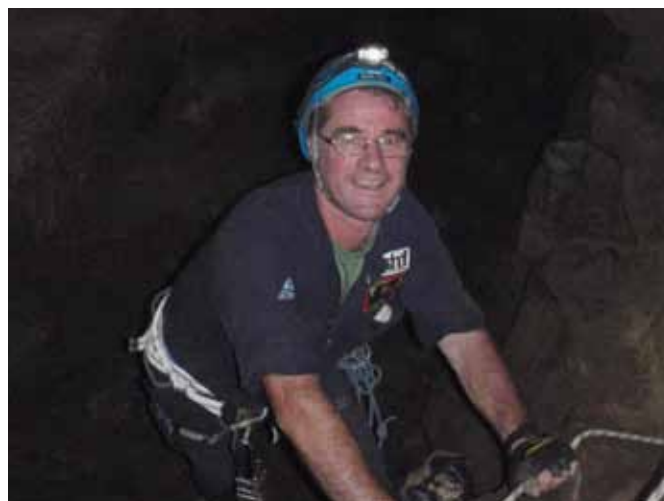
Before I started in Scouts I could bushwalk; but my pack was too heavy. I could canoe; but kept going around in circles. I could set up a tent; which generally stayed up, and I could cook a basic meal on a fire, (charcoal is very good for your teeth). I have always loved the great outdoors, and have always been a great believer in learning by actually doing.

Taking on the RC Activities role, (which I reckon is the best job in Scouting ...but don't tell anyone!) ...it is that learning by doing philosophy that makes it so much fun. It is seeing our youth learning by doing, and becoming competent in a variety of adventurous outdoor skills.

Of course this does not all happen on its own. It is only with a team of dedicated, highly skilled leaders, who do the business. And it is the GWS Region Activities Team, "...who are among the best in the business".

Our Water Activities Team led by Tracey Hansford, a very experienced racing canoeist in her own right, have run numerous canoe courses and overnight canoe trips throughout the year. A big support by her team, including Raymond Shepherd and Brian Rigg, our canoe courses are always a popular with the youth and leaders alike. We are also very fortunate to also have a number of leaders skilled in sailing, with Keith Travers running a number of sailing courses, supported by Bruce Brigden, over the course of the year.

If you don't want to get wet, we can turn to the Rock Team led by the mighty Rick Jamison. You would be hard pressed to find anyone anywhere with more abseiling and canyoning experience than Rick. Many a weekend saw Rick and his team somewhere out in the mountains teaching our youth (and leaders) "rock skills:



whether deep in a canyon, or hanging off the edge of a cliff on their first adrenalin pumping abseil. As part of Rick's Team I would like to acknowledge, and pass on our sincere thanks to 'Fred' Bernie Kaltenbacher, who has hung up his "piton" after many years on the Activities Team. Without leaving a hole in the team, we were also able to welcome Fred's son Warren to join the Activities Team. Warren is a professional High Ropes Technician, which will enable us to provide a new level to the already high standard we can provide in rock skills.

If heights make you dizzy, then let's go underground with the Caving Team. Meredith Stewart took on the role of Caving coordinator at the beginning of 2012, and has taken the Caving Team from strength to strength. Supported by her team including David "Macca" McKinley and a number of Venturers and Rovers, Meredith's biggest problem is the large number of participants who put their hands up to go on a one of her courses, with many courses having 50+ participants. ...what a wonderful problem to have!

One team, which is unique to GWS and has the largest participant number of any of the Activity Teams over a 12 month period, is the Science and Radio Team led by John Leahy. If it's not water rockets going off, it's a mini volcano, a snow storm, or even literally a hair raising moment. John and his small team can share some incredible sights and experiences in the wonders of science, physics and electrics. Along with John, a big thank you to Karl Humphreys, who is our resident Radio Guru, and also Lillian Ewe, who has been a great support, and taken some amazing photos along the way. Lillian has recently had to stand down after two and half years on the team, and we do thank her for wonderful support in that time.

One team that has been a little quiet for a number of years is the Fox Team. I was absolutely delighted that

after nearly 5 years of absence, we were once again able to run the Flying Fox at the 2012 Jamborette. And best of all it was voted the No.1 activity for the weekend. Quentin Napier, has taken on the role as Flying Fox Coordinator and is keen to get a team trained up again for the Fox. Quentin is also coordinating the climbing wall for events throughout the region.

With all adventurous Activities there is invariably a time when someone injures themselves. We have been very fortunate to have had the services of Allan Mason and Dr Josette Docherty, who have both been active members of both Scouting and the St John Ambulance, in providing 1st Aid training to GWS for many years. It was with sadness I accepted their resignation with both Allan and Josette moving down into the Southern Highlands in retirement. We do thank them both for their wonderful service to Scouting over many years, and I am sure you will all join me in wishing them many more years of happy retirement living.

We are very fortunate to now have the services of Charlie "Jock" McLean, a trained First Aid Instructor, in providing First Aid Training to our Region. This certainly keeps Charlie busy along with his role as DJSL for Blacktown District.

Like all Regions within the State, we are coming under the banner of SIS10 training in Outdoor Recreation Skills, providing us with external recognition in Adventurous Outdoors Skills. The process is still very much a work in progress and a huge undertaking at State level. However the final results I believe will be a huge benefit to both Scouting and ourselves as individuals, within the Scouting ranks.

I can now paddle in a straight line, my pack is lighter, my tent stays up, and I can do a pretty reasonable roast chicken in a camp oven. I can also now abseil, and have crawled through a few holes somewhere underground, and even had a few runs on the flying fox.

And that is because of the dedication and skill level of my Activities Team, and what they have taught so many people, including myself. A big BRAVOOO to each one of you, and thank you for having so much Adventurous Fun and at the same time being Activity Safe!

...and with a team like that it really has given me the best job in Scouts!

Mark Fell (Dingo)  
Region Commissioner (Activities)

## CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

2012 was our 43rd season and it was very successful with many patrons once more claiming it was the best performance ever. The theme of the show was The Gang is Back. We created a range of new songs and items written by a number of Gang members through our Creative Team.

We continued to be successful with the CD recording put down a month before the show with its enhanced audio. Once again this ensured the choral performance, supported by the orchestra, resulted in a great CD.

Our season attendance was again down on previous years with only 4800 patrons attending our 8 spectacular performances at Parramatta Riverside Theatre in the July school holidays.

Whilst the performance season was a great success, few would have realised that our 2012 season succeeded despite many handicaps. Our shortage of audition applicants reduced the competition for cast positions and the perceived need for commitment in attending all rehearsals. In addition, we no longer had equal numbers of boys and girls, rather we accepted on merit. The other challenge was finding a suitable rehearsal and construction space. Once again we experienced the yearly frustration of finding suitable warehouses for set construction, set painting and the final rehearsals involving costumes, sets, the monolith and the orchestra. We were fortunate to secure a warehouse at Rydalmere which enabled the final rehearsals to occur satisfactorily.

The 2013 show has undergone a metamorphosis. The theme is Believe and we began the season early with a search for Talent to create a totally new type of Gang Show. 2013 is all about believing – believing in yourself – believing you can do your best – believing you can reach out and grab that star. Based on a variety of popular and gang show songs and sketches, the show is built around a Talent Quest. Eight gifted young scouts and guides will be vying to gain the most votes each night and win Talent Scout. With the support of the Gang and lots of new technical elements, the show keeps the best of Cumberland's past performances and boldly strides out into theatre of the future.

The show will have a more up-to-date look with a large video screen and orchestra at the back of the stage. This means the cast will be in closer proximity to the audience on the thrust stage. We have also changed our performance schedule so that Red Scarf night is on

the first Friday night, we have an additional matinee on the Sunday afternoon and we have one less mid-week performance.

The show maintains its mission to engender confidence in all the Gang through skills in performing arts. This year there is more emphasis on everybody developing through fun and games. We are rehearsing this year at Evans High School and the first rehearsal day was run as a performing arts workshop/fun day with a performance for the parents during the evening. This gave the parents a look at what to expect when Believe performs in July.

The two rehearsal camps have been held and the show is now in the polishing stage heading towards the performance season at Parramatta Riverside Theatre.

Finally the Management Board would like to thank all the cast members, volunteer crew members, parents and audience who help to make our show one of the most professional in Australia.

*Lyall Wood*

Chairman



## RADIO, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

This Activity continues to be in demand and oversubscribed. Again we have seen 900 youth just on week nights at the Group's halls, presenting our various science programs and usually seeing two sections consecutively on the same night. We also put on bases for Joey and Cub Fun days, the Scout Jamborette at Bents Basin, and the yearly international JOTA weekend.

Karl has expanded his capabilities again this year by studying for and being awarded the Advanced Amateur Radio License. This allows him to operate

at higher power on a wider range of frequencies, but more importantly allows him to train our youth for the Foundation radio license. He has upgraded his portable antennae tower and purchased a ham shack tent to make his radio base more self-contained, and has added 24 GPS units to equipment inventory in support of scout activities and training. An Outpost Radio has also been purchased, which allows for long distance communications with emergency services such as Royal Flying Doctor service, and other rescue groups in extreme remote locations. His continued support of the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio club, assures GWS of an enthusiastic group of operators for our JOTA weekend.

Our base at the GWSR Jamborette this year featured a vertical wind tunnel where the Scouts tested their constructions to fly in the lowest wind velocity; investigated resonant modes in metal plates of various shapes; visualised the operation of GPS and EPIRB satellites as they establish location on globes, and observed the effect of UV light on fluorescent minerals and the tornado effect on a flame. Our base was visited by two Danish Leaders who were most impressed with our science activity.

Lillian has decided to concentrate on family and studies after April. We thank her for devoting two and a half years to the Science activity. Her resourcefulness and good humor have made possible the continuance of our goal, to bring fun science programs to as many scouts as possible. Her leaving poses me the challenge of finding at least another couple of leaders to continue the activity in its present guise, by the end of the year.

Thanks to Karl Humphreys and Lillian Ewe for their enthusiasm in explaining and demonstrating the science of nature to our youth, also John Vincent for helping us at the Jamborette; to Section Leaders who arranged for us to reach as many youth as possible on the same night, and to the Leaders and Amateur Radio operators supporting JOTA in the GWS Region.

*John Leahy*

Region Radio, Science & Technology Coordinator



## DISTRICT REPORTS

### BLACKTOWN

I was appointed District Commissioner in July when David Stopps stepped down to accept the position of Deputy Region Commissioner. Many thanks to David for his hard work and support for the District over the period. Tracey Stopps has taken on the role of District Scout Leader replacing me when I became the District Commissioner and Charlie (Jock) McLean has accepted the role of District Joey Scout leader during the year.

2012 began with a number of Venturers attending the Wild Dayz Venture in Tasmania and during the year the Venturers participated in a year-long challenge called "Capture The Flag" which was successfully aimed at and achieved in bringing Venturers from the District Units together regularly.

There were many District activities held during the year in particular the regular attendance at the annual ANZAC day services, and in May the Blacktown City Festival where we had over 100 youth and leaders from all sections participate in the street march through Blacktown.

The Scouts had the opportunity to participate in the Blacktown City Games in August where they joined in with 300 local youth from Guides, Cadets and the Air League to show off their camping skills and participate in joint activities/competitions at Nurranginy Reserve. Thanks to Blacktown City Council for the concept, bringing it to reality and supplying the facilities for it all to happen. Other regular activities which the Scouts participated in were ScoutHike at Belanglo State Forest in May and the Region Jamborette at Bents Basin in June. The year ended for the Scouts with 2 bus loads leaving on New Year's Eve for the Australian Jamboree in Maryborough, Queensland.

Cubs enjoyed many activities which included their annual Billy Cart Derby which is held on the Rooty Hill bringing fear and excitement as they tried out their Billy Carts on the downhill run.

Congratulations to Joshua Bordley for achieving his Queen Scout Award and Amanda Wade and Mitchell Howlett on achieving their Australian Scout Medallion Awards.

2nd Kings Langley and 1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Scout Groups received grants for renovations to their halls during the year.

I would like to thank the District Leaders/Representatives and Group Leaders for their hard work and support during the year.

Ross Howlett  
District Commissioner

### HAWKESBURY

In February this year, I was appointed to the role of District Commissioner Hawkesbury. A special mention of thanks to Duncan Watts who has been acting DC for the past 18 months.

John Aquilina was appointed the District Leader Cubs following the transfer of Phyllis McAlpine to 1st Hawkesbury Scout Group as an ACL.

The District is small but the numbers are stable. The district comprises of four (4) groups, including 1st Glossodia, 1st Grose Vale, 1st Hawkesbury, and 1st Oakville. Within these Groups there are a total of one (1) Joey Mob, four (4) Cub Packs, four (4) Scout Troops, and two (2) Venture Units. The district also includes Hawkesbury River Rover Crew and Black Horse Fellowship.

District Activities, such as Hawkesbury Show Grand Parade, ANZAC day march, Dawn Service were well attended by all section. This year the Scout display tent won first prize for the best stand.

Throughout the year the Scouts undertook and enjoyed a variety of State, Region, and District activities including; Scouthike, District Rally, State Rally, Jamborette, Wide Games, Abseiling, Caving, and Surfing.

The highlight of the year was the Jamboree where a full troop from the District attended, we had so many Scouts attend that 1st Grose Vale attended Jamboree with Penrith District. Founders Day was celebrated at Macquarie Park on the river with raft building and races.

Special mention goes to Callum Firth who has just achieved the Scout Medallion, well done.

The Venturers carried out many activities throughout the year. The highlight for most Venturers was the venture Camp held in New Zealand.

Cubs had an activity filled year including District Camps, and Out and About. The Cubs are now looking forward to Cuboree in January. Cubs celebrated Founders day

with a BBQ and games at Pughs Lagoon in Richmond.

Joeys although a small Mob had an enjoyable year, and saw Joeys progress to Cubs and new Joeys join.

The Hawkesbury River Rover Crew has seen some great changes over the last 12 months. They have grown from only three members to a crew of nearly ten, seeing four squires become knights, sharing many great experiences and growing together as a crew.

Together they restored the Crew shield, designed Crew hoodies, commissioned the making of crew scarves and made renovations to their den. They organised a Christmas in July fundraising event at the hall which saw a great turnout, and was a fun, memorable night for all involved.

They attended several moots as a Crew and took home the moot skin twice. They ran a base at Waratah Knights of the Camelot in November 2012, and again at Dragonskin in March 2013. It was a great success both times, receiving positive feedback and they enjoyed themselves immensely.

I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to all the Leaders and Committees for the hard work they do to ensure scouting life is enjoyable and fun for the youth members. I would also like to thank the parents of the district for their efforts when called upon to help out especially at fund raisers.

I look forward to the next 12 months, working together with the Leaders and Parents to make Scouting attractive to all.

*Phil Heinrich*  
District Commissioner

## HILLS SOUTH

2012 has been a good year for scouting in the Hills District. Youth numbers have generally remained steady across sections with some groups and sections showing some good growth.

The youth in the district have experienced and continue to experience a wide range of activities through the programming of the Leaders. As from last year the Radio and Science team, plus the Water Activities team are popular. There has also been an increase in Bushwalking amongst the Scout section.

During the year there have been a few Grey Wolf awards

and plenty of other badges being earned by our Cubs. We also have appointed a new acting DCSL who at the end of the year transferred from her appointment to DCSL – so a big welcome to Gabbie Thompson on her new appointment. Right from the beginning she has started making her own mark in the role so a big 1,2,3 Woof to Gabbie.

With no DSL at present, I have been sitting in as Mindari leader and am on the lookout for a DSL with talks in progress.

Although no Scout Medallion or Green Cords, badge work in Scouts in 2012 was aimed at getting the scouts ready for AJ2013 and attaining their Pioneer level cords.

As mentioned 2012 saw troops preparing for AJ2013. We had enough youth to make up 1½ troops, with quite a few service leaders attending. The 2 weeks at Jamboree were going to be a challenge in the tropics but a good time was had.

Joeys have continued working on their Buddy and Promise badges with a few being awarded in the last 12 months.

There were no Queen Scout awards for Hills in 2012 but there are a few nearing completion so 2013 is looking good.

As with every year all groups are constantly looking for new leaders – some groups are in more dire need than others. Each group is trying to rectify the situation but it is hard work.

Unfortunately at the end of 2012 we had to put 4th Castle Hill group into recess, having had no Cubs or Venturers and decreasing Scout numbers. The aim is to hopefully get the group up and running again soon. We also had to put 1st Dural Venturers into recess.

The groups continue to support District, Region, State and National events including ANZAC Day local marches, Jamborette, Jamboree, Cuboree, Scout Hike and State Rally.

I would like to give a big BRAVO to all the leaders who have volunteered their valuable time and commitment to providing the youth in the District with the Scouting experience. Your effort does not go unnoticed by myself, the youth or their parents and families. Also a Thank You to the Leaders families for allowing them to make it worthwhile for the youth in the District.

*Gavan Hall*  
District Commissioner

## HOLROYD

First, congratulations to Jeannie Wood on her award as Citizen of the Year not only for work in the Holroyd District Scouts but for her other achievements in the Holroyd LGA as well. Well done Jeanie and well deserved.

Once again the Scouts of all sections and their Leaders have been out and about in Holroyd, attending and participating, in the many events that are held in Holroyd each year, the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremonies at the Civic Centre and the Holroyd City Fest Parade as well as our own swimming carnival.

Congratulations also to those youth members who have attained their Scout Medallions and also those youth members who were awarded their Queen Scout Awards. To all those other youth members who achieved different levels of badge work, congratulations, keep up the good work.

From all reports those youth members and the leaders who went to the Jamboree had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed that experience.

To the Leaders of this District, thank you for your support for the last year and for the dedication that you give to your youth members, and to those Leaders who received recognition in last years World Scout Day awards also congratulations.

Ron Brown  
District Commissioner



## PARRAMATTA

At the time of writing, I have attended the Annual Review Meeting of 3 of the 9 Groups in the District and I'm very pleased with the overall enthusiasm of the Groups and the Youth Members this year. It's not often that I can be rendered speechless, but..... Congratulations to Dr Grant Hose, 1st 1st Ermington ASL(T), who achieved the unachievable, when he delivered the Annual Scout Report at the 1st Ermington Annual Report Meeting. It is the first time I have had an annual report delivered through "Interpretative Dance". I was even encouraged to join in as my response to the Group!

2012-2013 has been a jammed packed year for the Parramatta District. It has been all about the young people with many distinguishing themselves through the award scheme.

Members from the District have taken an active part in many of the activities available to them with Youth and Adults involved in the Performing Arts through the Gang Show and the GWS Circus. The Cirque du Scout project has come on in leaps and bounds with receipt of the first \$5000 of funding from Parramatta Council and the Youth Members are looking forward to the next \$5000 coming later this year. Every Group has taken advantage of the Region Activity Team expertise in Abseiling, Caving, and Water Activities by attending at least one outdoor activity with Region Activity Team Leaders or having the Science Team come to visit their group.

Queen's Scout, Mitchell Hayes (ex North Rocks Venturers) took part in a hike on the Kokoda Track and showed that the skills he had learned through Scouting, could be put to great use! Venturer Luke Bartlett, 1st Ermington Venturers, participated in the Air Venture.

The Climate Change Funding provided by the Office of Environment and Heritage is winding to a halt in June and the District has benefitted by having Water saving devices installed at most halls. This project moves into the education stage in the next six months with groups being provided with an Environment night and Open Day Kit to run a bring a friend or open day program based on the environmental retrofits done at their halls. 1st Ermington installed solar panels and had their floors polished under a Community Building Partnership Grant. North Rocks (Light replacements) and Parramatta District (Identification of Asbestos in District Halls and replacement broken asbestos sheet at Rydalmere Hall) have been successful in the 2013 round of CBPG.

Cassie Rec, GL 1st North Rocks and a dedicated group of assistants admirably supported Agoonoree and provided valuable life experiences for Scouts with a Disability. Cassie educated the District providing important information and resources to Groups on working with Scouts with Disabilities.

Most Groups from Parramatta took part in Anzac Day Services, Joey Fun Day, Cub Fun Day, GWS Jamboree, Waratah, Dragonskin, and the Fun Day on the Water.

The District had many changes in Leadership in 2012-2013 and we welcomed several new Group Leaders with Shane Selwood – 1st Winston Hills, Michael Cook – 1st Carlingford, Mark Richard – 1st Ermington and Mark Andrews AGL at 1st Ermington.

A number of our District's long term leaders either retired or announced their intention to retire or redeploy Owen Manson – 2nd Northmead flagged his intention to retire, Ian Shield - 1st Winston Hills to DSL Hills, Rob Drury – 1st North Rocks, Geoff Dearden – 1st Carlingford, Kym Partridge – 1st Winston Hills and Dorothy Bell – 1st North Rocks all retired. We thank them for their long service to Scouting and wish them well in their new endeavours.

All Groups worked on their Strategic Plan. Most groups put a great deal of thought into this process and are reaping the benefits with several of the smaller groups showing good growth and 1st Parramatta on the verge of opening a Joey Mob as part of their plan coming into effect.

Many leaders and supporters were recognised for their service to Scouting with a Adult recognition award and the following leaders completed their Advanced Training and were awarded their Wood Badge.



Alison Mountford – 1st Carlingford - Scout Wood Badge , Bryan Rigg – 1st Carlingford - Scout Wood Badge, Noriko Burrows – 1st Carlingford – Cub Scout Wood Badge, Kathryn Peirce 1st North Rocks - Joey Scout Wood Badge

In January 2013, many of the District's Scouts and their leaders attended AJ2013. Every troop had youth members at the Jamboree. Many thanks to the leaders who supported them.

A number of groups took up Fishing with their Cubs and Scouts. I attended 1st Carlingford's Christmas Party at Putney, where many of the youth members caught fish and had a great family night out.

The District assisted branch at the 2013 Royal Easter Show with Scouts, Venturers, Rovers from the District supporting the activities.

The focus for the rest of the year in most of the District packs will be preparation of Cub Scouts for the 2014 Cuboree. Many Scouts, Venturers and Rovers from the District have indicated a willingness to participate as Young Leaders at this event and are looking forward to working with the Cubs.

Tracey Hansford  
District Commissioner

# PENRITH

Penrith District consists of 5 very active groups, as this year was also a Jamboree year we had a large number of our youth and Leaders go to Maryborough QLD, in January making up 1 and half Jamboree troops.

Our Joeys are showing growth in all Groups, this is the start of a new and exciting District, for as the Joeys come in and progress into Cubs then Scouts and then to Venturers, all sections will grow in time, this also brings our Parents, who some will become leaders and our Leader numbers are starting to show that trend.

Joeys had a great adventure to Dubbo this year, for a District Mob Holiday, one trip that will never be forgotten.

Cubs have been out and about, doing all sorts of things and are now getting ready for the next State Cuboree next January, we expect to be sending about to packs, and Leaders to Cataract. This will be a fantastic event that all Cubs only get one chance at going.

We have had quite few Grey Wolves presented this year which is encouraging other Cubs to give it a go, and we do say 1, 2, 3 Woof, Congratulations to all the awardees.

Scouts have had one of the busiest years yet, with Jamboree, and Jamborettes, Sirius Cup Regatta, District Camps, Scout Hike, State Rally, JOTA and numerous amounts of Troop Camps and hikes, Patrol camps and Hikes, Green Cord Hikes and Scout Medallion Activities, it a wonder if there is any time for being at home.

We had a Scout Medallion awarded to Jessica White from 1st St Marys well done and BRAVOOO.

Venturers have been busy, unfortunately one of the units has gone into recess due to the age gap between venturers and the age of the current Scouts in the Group, but that will be a short recess, and the other unit is very strong with plenty of active youth members, out there nearly every weekend.

One of the most exciting things happening is the partnership we are entering with the Panthers Football Club, when they build their Centre of excellence there is a space allocated for us to start a scout group, this will be an extraordinary joining of 2 community activities, that will possibly be an opportunity for the association in other areas as well, and for us this is ground breaking.

What is also ground breaking is that we have started the District Executive, to support the Groups and the

District with all of the growth activities to come and to keep the communication going at all levels of the district, not just the uniform side.

So from what you can see, I can only say to the groups of Penrith a big year well done, look forward to an exciting year to come. And thank you to all the Leaders and the District Team, what a great effort.

*Tony Dent*

Acting District Commissioner  
Region Commissioner (Special Duties)



## SCOUT FELLOWSHIPS

### BLACK HORSE

- Every second month is a social night where we go to a local pub, club or restaurant that we haven't been to before. Every other month is a meeting at the Scout hall.
- We have approx 5 or 6 non uniform members and the rest are uniformed members.
- We had a combined Christmas party with Mindari, seonee and other sections.

*Debbie Freeman*

Secretary

Black Horse Scout Fellowship

### BLUE MOUNTAINS

The last 12 months have been quite busy, with service activities and social activities. It is pleasing to see our service extend over three sections of Scouting as well as the community - well done to all. Everyone participates where they can and shares the jobs while having a good time.

Service activities:

- Provided BBQ for Venturer Abseil Course
- Provided service at NSW State Scout Rally
- Ran a Halloween night for Cubs
- Cooked for Cub Scout Leadership Course
- Helped cook at fundraiser BBQ for Gateway Family Services

Social outings:

- Archery with CGSSF
- Back to Bundilla Day
- Indoor Putt Putt
- Two dinner get togethers as well as Christmas BBQ at the Richards.

*Mary-Jane Allan*

Chairperson

Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship

### MINDARI

We have had our usual busy year, performing service for Scouting and non-scouting groups. Then we added some social activities to round things off.

Our non-scouting service consisted of Red Shield Appeal and our annual collection of groceries for Ronald McDonald House. We donated library bags and goods to Samaritan's Purse Christmas Appeal. We also made gifts for the residents of Southern Cross Nursing Home, which we distributed after entertaining them with Christmas carols.

Within Scouting we have assisted at 1st Westmead Group working bees and at the Cub Pack. We attended Ben Park's Scout Medallion Presentation. We assisted



at the Holroyd Swimming Carnival, and in the clean up at the 3rd Greystanes Hall. We also set up for the Scout display at the Holroyd Council Celebrations at Holroyd gardens. A map and Compass night was also run for 1st Kings Langley Cub Scouts.

Our catering skills were on display at the Cub Scout Leadership Course in March; we also prepared and served afternoon tea at the Region AGM. The 3 day YACS camp again saw us in the kitchen catering.

Some members attended the Jamborette where they assisted with activities, while others ran a Map and Compass Base and a Cooking base at Cub Baanya. Members attended a working bee at Bundilla, removed waste paper from the camp and obtained locks for the camp.

Members assisted conduct a Special Needs Activity at the YACs meeting and we ran a sense training activity at the State Agoonoree. Three members attended the Australian Jamboree at Maryborough.

We also gave service to the Hills Trefoil Guild, installing towel rails in the bathroom at Castle Hill Guide Hall.

We did not neglect the social side of life with a weekend at Orange, where we visited the Cadia Gold Mine. We had a picnic day at Prospect Reservoir, attended Gang Show, Back to Bundilla Day, the Region Awards Dinner and the Ronald McDonald Thank You morning tea. We also explored the city on the open Sydney weekend.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Office bearers for their hard work during the year and to those members who are always willing to volunteer their time to give service to others.

*Stephen Shaw*  
Chairperson  
Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship

## CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship has increased its membership to 24 during the past twelve months. Whilst most members are involved in support of Cumberland Gang Show, we continually seek to expand our membership base.

As well as participating in the 2012 season of Cumberland Gang Show, the Fellowship catered for the Blacktown Billy Cart Derby at Rooty Hill in August, participated in Back to Bundilla Day in September, catered for the 2012 NATPAC conference at Bundilla over the last weekend in September, during which the Sydney Swans won the AFL premiership, and attended the Region Awards Dinner at Blacktown RSL in October.

Our social program included attending a play at the Lawson Theatre at Werrington Downs in May; a very successful show recovery dinner at Rosehill Bowling Club in July; an end of year rail outing to Kiama, where we were joined by some members of the Shoalhaven Scout Fellowship, in November; a very pleasant weekend in Orange at the beginning of February; and a morning of croquet at Merrylands in March. The outstanding success of our social program is due to the planning and commitment of our social activities organiser Adrian Wilson, ably assisted by his wife Evelyn. We are very appreciative of both their efforts.

Many of our members are also active in other scouting appointments in Groups, Regions and Branch. We have three members on the Executive of the Branch Scout Fellowship Committee. Some members provided

support to the Region Jamborette, to Dragon Skin and to the October Agoonoree. Holroyd District members participated in the Holroyd Australia Day Celebrations and Holroyd Festival parade.

Congratulations to the 2013 Holroyd City Citizen of the year, our secretary Jeanie Wood. I was honoured to be recognised in the 2012 World Scout Day Awards receiving the National President's Award.

My special thanks to my fellow members of the executive: Secretary Jeanie Wood, Treasurer Steve Munro and Deputy Chairperson Alex Van Rooy. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and have certainly ensured the great success of the past twelve months. I believe our Fellowship will continue to enjoy another exciting year in 2013-2014.

*Lyall Wood*  
Chairperson  
Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship

## WARATAH ACTIVITY

2012 saw the official launch of the Waratah Activity Fellowship with the first 11 members invested by the Branch Commissioner for Scout Fellowships in November.

The Waratah Activity Fellowship allows strong supporters of the Venturer Scout section to become members of Scouting without the weekly commitment as a section Leader. The Fellowship is also a place for current Leaders to engage socially with other Leaders in the Region, as well as ensuring the success of the many events that exist in the Venturer calendar.

Our Fellowship Members are actively preparing for Waratah 2013: The Amazing Race with new recruits to the planning team and lots of great energy to ensure this year's event is a great success. The team has already completed several site visits in preparation for the event as well as a couple of enjoyable dinner outings.

We look forward to having other Scout Fellowships join with us as we support another great Waratah event in November.



## GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION

### **Blue Mountains District**

1st Blackheath Scout Group  
1st Blaxland Scout Group  
1st Blaxland Rover Crew "Kalangadoo"  
1st Hazelbrook Scout Group  
1st Springwood Scout Group

### **Blacktown District**

1st Kings Langley Scout Group  
1st Mt Druitt Scout Group  
Kings Langley Rover Crew  
1st North Mt Druitt Scout Group  
1st North Mt Druitt Rover Crew  
1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Scout Group  
1st Riverstone Scout Group  
1st Toongabbie Scout Group  
1st Whalan Scout Group  
1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Group  
2nd Kings Langley Scout Group

### **Hawkesbury District**

1st Glossodia Scout Group  
1st Grose Vale Scout Group  
1st Hawkesbury Scout Group  
Hawkesbury River Rover Crew  
1st Oakville Scout Group

### **Hills South District**

1st Balcombe Heights Scout Group  
1st Baulkham Hills Rover Crew  
1st Castle Hill Scout Group  
1st Dural Scout Group  
1st Kellyville Scout Group  
2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Group  
2nd Baulkham Hills Rover Crew  
2nd Castle Hill Scout Group  
2nd Castle Hill Rover Crew  
4th Castle Hill Scout Group  
West Pennant Hills Valley Scout Group

### **Holroyd District**

1st Granville Scout Group  
1st Greystanes Scout Group  
1st Pendle Hill Scout Group  
1st Westmead Scout Group  
1st Westmead Rover Crew  
1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Group  
1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Rover Crew  
3rd Merrylands Scout Group

### **Parramatta District**

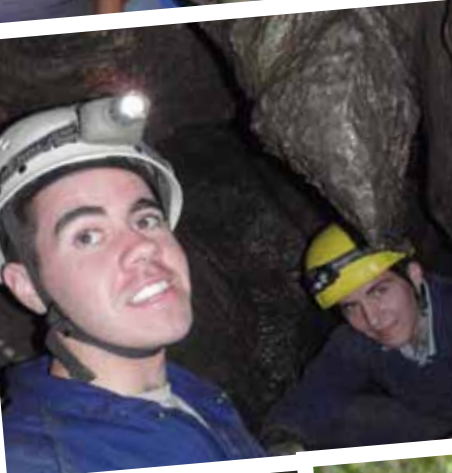
1st Carlingford Scout Group  
1st Ermington Scout Group  
1st Murray Farm Scout Group  
1st North Rocks Scout Group  
1st Parramatta Scout Group  
1st Rydalmere Scout Group  
1st Wentworthville Scout Group  
1st Winston Hills Scout Group  
2nd Northmead Scout Group

### **Penrith City District**

1st Cambridge Park Scout Group  
1st Emu Plains Scout Group  
1st Erskine Park Scout Group  
Nepean Rover Crew  
1st South Penrith Scout Group  
1st St Marys Scout Group

### **Scout Fellowships**

Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship  
Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship  
Hawkesbury Black Horse Scout Fellowship  
Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship  
Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship



**THE SCOUT PRAYER**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
 by whose grace Thy servants  
 are enabled to fight the good fight of faith,  
 and ever prove victorious,  
 we humbly beseech Thee,  
 so to inspire us,  
 that we may yield our hearts to Thine obedience  
 and exercise our wills on Thy behalf.  
 Help us to think wisely,  
 to speak rightly,  
 to resolve bravely,  
 to act kindly,  
 to live purely.

Bless us in body and soul  
 and make us a blessing to our comrades.  
 Whether at home or abroad,  
 may we ever seek the extension of Thy Kingdom.  
 Let the assurance of Thy presence  
 save us from sinning,  
 strengthen us in life  
 and comfort us in death.  
 O Lord our God, accept this prayer  
**AMEN**



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