



Scouts Australia - NSW
Greater Western Sydney Region
68th Annual Report
2015



SCOUTS
AUSTRALIA

Be Prepared
for new adventure!

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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

Blacktown District Rover Crew
1st Kings Langley Scout Group
1st Mt Druitt Scout Group
Kings Langley Rover Crew
1st North Mt Druitt Scout Group
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
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

Greater Western Sydney Region Team 2014-2015

REGION PRESIDENT -----	Alan Overton AM
REGION CHAIRPERSON ----	Geoff McGrath / Debbie Howlett
REGION TREASURER -----	Paul Thompson
REGION COMMISSIONER -----	Neville Henderson OAM
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
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 -----	Tony Dent (Acting)
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

Louise Markus MP
Federal Member for Macquarie

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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.

MINUTES FROM 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Minutes of the 67th Annual General Meeting of the Region Scout Council held at Bundilla Scout Camp on Sunday 15th June 2014, commencing at 2.30pm.

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

APOLOGIES: Read by Anne Thompson, Region Commissioner Cub Scouts (as recorded in attendance book).

WELCOME: Mr Alan Overton welcomed all those present.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 66th Annual General Meeting of the Region Council held on Sunday, 2nd June, 2013 were circulated in the Annual Report and adopted.

MOVED: Neville Henderson SECONDED: Ron Brown

2. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial Report

Mr. Paul Thompson, Region Treasurer

Annual Report

Mr. Neville Henderson OAM, Region Commissioner

MOVED the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statement

Mr Ray Williams MP, and Patron of Greater Western Sydney Region

SECONDED the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statement

Miss Holly Playford

Chair, NSW State Executive Committee

ADDRESS BY:

Roza Sage MP – Member for Blue Mountains

Ray Williams MP – Member for Hawkesbury

Councillor Mark Taylor – Representing The Hills Shire Council

Councillor Shahadat Chowdhury, A Councillor on Parramatta City Council

3. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

REGION PRESIDENT	Mr Alan Overton AM	TRUSTEES	Region Commissioner
REGION CHAIRMAN	Mr Geoff McGrath		Mr Geoff McGrath
REGION TREASURER	Mr Paul Thompson		Mrs Jan Playford
			Mr Peter Nickl

4. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF REGION EXECUTIVE

Mrs Jan Playford	Mr Angus Boxall	Mr Peter Stieme	Mr Michael Majoors
Mr Lyall Wood AM RFD	Mr Glenn Duncan	Mrs Melissa Harding	Mrs Pamela Garske
Mr Paul Roach	Mrs Margo Dalziel	Mrs Patricia Shaw	Mr Peter Nickl
Mr David Stopps	Mr Mitchell Shaw		

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 REGION COMMISSIONERS OF THE GIRL GUIDES WITHIN GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MRS JAN PLAYFORD.....	HONORARY COMMISSIONER
MR PETER NICKL.....	REGION COMMISSIONER INTERNATIONAL
MR DAVID STOPPS.....	DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER
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 AND CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW
MARGO DALZIEL.....	DELEGATE WARATAH ACTIVITY SCOUT FELLOWSHIP
MR PAUL THOMPSON	DELEGATE HOLROYD DISTRICT
MR MICHAEL MAJOORS.....	DELEGATE PARRAMATTA DISTRICT
MR GLENN DUNCAN	DELEGATE PENRITH DISTRICT
MR MITCHELL SHAW	DELEGATE BLACKTOWN DISTRICT
MR PAUL ROACH.....	DELEGATE BLUE MOUNTAINS DISTRICT
MR ANGUS BOXALL.....	REGION ROVER COUNCIL CHAIRMAN
MRS PATRICIA SHAW.....	COMMITTEE MEMBER
MRS PAMELA GARSKE	MINUTES TAKER

DELEGATES TO NSW STATE COUNCIL

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

ELECTION OF CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW MANAGEMENT BOARD

DR ROBERT LANG	PRODUCER/DIRECTOR
MR LYALL WOOD AM RFD	CHAIRMAN
MR NEVILLE HENDERSON OAM.....	DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR
DR JEANIE WOOD	SECRETARY
MR PAUL THOMPSON	FINANCE DIRECTOR/TREASURER
MR MATTHEW THOMPSON	MUSICAL DIRECTOR
MRS MEAGAN THOMPSON	PRODUCTION DIRECTOR
MR PETER LEE.....	TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
MRS JENNY WARDELL.....	WELFARE DIRECTOR
MISS KARINA WARDLE	MARKETING DIRECTOR
MR ADAM WARDELL	STRATEGY ADVISOR

4. 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 shall be the following night.

MOVED: Ron Brown **SECONDED:** Col Nicholas

9. **ADDRESS BY** Karina Wardle, Cumberland Gang Show
ADDRESS BY Mr Doug Menzies, NSW Chief Commissioner
ADDRESS BY Mr Lyall Wood AM RFD, Cumberland Gang Show

Mr. Alan Overton thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm followed by afternoon tea provided by GUMNUT PATISSERIE AND PREPARED BY PINNAROO SCOUT FELLOWSHIP.

REGION COMMISSIONER

It gives me great pleasure to present the 68th annual report of Greater Western Sydney Region. This is my fifth report as Region Commissioner.

Our Region consists of 45 Scout Groups, 5 Scout Fellowships and 8 Rover Crews. The Region consists of seven districts, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Hills, Holroyd, Parramatta and Penrith. We keep in regular contact with the State Members of Parliament, the Federal Members of Parliament and the various Mayors and a number of the councilors as they are the people who can help the region and groups with recommendations for grants.

Congratulations to Jan Playford, Honorary Commissioner, who became a Life Councilor of the Branch Council at the 2014 State AGM. It was a great recognition for over 30 years of service to scouting not only in GWS but also on various State Committees. Also a long serving delegate to our Region Executive, Lyall Wood, was elected as Chair of the NSW Scouts Board of Directors at a board meeting after the AGM. Well done and well deserved to you both.

I appointed Suzanne Cornell and David Shaw as Region Leaders who will assist Region Commissioner Communications and Public Relations, Matt Thompson, with the excellent region website. Welcome aboard.

It is a pleasure to report that a number of leaders from Holroyd District have set up a development team aimed at increasing youth numbers in the district and supporting groups with diminished numbers. Well done on this initiative.

Once again we had a successful Adult Recognition Awards Presentation at Toongabbie Sports and Bowling Club in October with 220 people in attendance to see their friends, colleagues and peers recognized for their service to scouting. I was surprised to receive a Silver Kangaroo in the 2014 awards. Thanks to Chief Commissioner Doug Menzies, Region President Alan Overton AM and State Board Chair, Lyall Wood AM RFD, for assisting with the presentation of the awards. We had 72 leaders and supporters receive awards in 2014. Unfortunately we have outgrown the venue at Toongabbie and will return to Wentworthville Leagues Club after many years break for the 2015 presentations on Thursday 22 October 2015.

Unfortunately for GWS Region we lost the services of our Region Chair, Geoff McGrath, who resigned after

many years in the role. I will miss my Tuesday chats with Geoff and I have assured him that if and when he is ready to return there will be a role for him at Region. Welcome aboard to Debbie Howlett who has agreed to fill the vacancy left by Geoff's resignation and I look forward to working with her in the future.



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 moving forward. We want you to know we couldn't do it without you.

We are also fortunate to have a treasurer as keen as Paul Thompson who keeps an eye on the finances and budget of the region and our various delegates who regularly attend the Region Executive,

It is hard for the region to operate without the services of a team of exceptional leaders who are not only dedicated to their duties but perform at an unbelievably high level and give up so much of their precious spare time to "do their best". Every section runs smoothly with many region activities geared to the age of the participants and please read the section reports showing how busy they have been during the past year. I don't wish to single out any of the leaders but must note the contribution of Matt Thompson as our webmaster and Anne Thompson who does a wonderful job editing and producing the Region Bulletin each month.

To Kim and Maggi, our excellent office ladies, congratulations on five years of dedicated service to scouting, the region and the groups. I am sure you join with me in thanking them for the time they spend keeping the region running as efficiently as it does. We couldn't do without them as part of our team.

Finally, thanks to my deputy, David Stopps, for the assistance he gives me to ensure the region runs so smoothly. Good to know that I have someone to run problems past.

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

Neville Henderson OAM
Region Commissioner

REGION CHAIRPERSON



My involvement in Scouting more recently has been as a Chairperson within the Group framework, it was very enlightening and a privilege to be asked to replace our outgoing Chairman Geoff McGrath. Geoff has served our Region admirably over many years and is now settling into a semi-retired lifestyle and I

would like to thank him on behalf of the Executive and the Region for the dedication he brought to the role.

Having stepped into the Chairperson role in February, it is amazing to be amongst such experience and expertise that is evident within the Region Executive and I am proud to be at the helm of such a dedicated group of people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Region Commissioner Neville Henderson for his leadership and direction, David Stopps his Deputy

for his “can do” attitude and all leaders and laypersons that convey the “true” word of Scouting to our youth members within the GWS Region.

2015 will see the Region preparing for many changes at both a strategic operational level and of course preparing our youth members and leaders to attend the upcoming Jamboree at Cataract Scout Park in January 2016. Finally, I commend to you the quote from our founder Baden Powell

“The spirit is there in every young person, it has to be discovered and brought to light”

Together let’s make this our challenge for 2015 and beyond.

Yours in Scouting

Debbie Howlett
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 2015

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	Administration		
	<i>Income</i>		
2,333	Saleable Items Income	3,123	2,100
400	Donation and Grants	450	-
1,500	Sundry Income	120	1,200
<u>4,233</u>		<u>3,693</u>	<u>3,300</u>
	<i>Expenditure</i>		
50,037	Salaries and On Costs	51,599	48,500
1,186	Awards, Badges & Scarves	2,538	600
340	Computer Expenses	25	332
673	Depreciation	239	240
825	Equipment Rental	2,476	-
339	Meeting/Award Dinner Expenses, net of receipts	362	1,850
1,590	Postage	1,639	1,200
1,459	Printing & Stationery	970	1,500
-	Repairs & Maintenance	-	1,200
823	Saleable Items Cost	220	600
-	Security of Premises	145	900
2,379	Telephone	2,797	2,400
916	Sundry Expense	903	3,289
<u>60,567</u>		<u>63,913</u>	<u>62,611</u>
(56,334)	Net Administration Cost	(60,221)	(59,311)
(2,011)	Development & Promotion	(1,702)	(2,265)
	Camps & Activity Centres		
(5,624)	Bundilla	(2,765)	(21,182)
<u>(5,624)</u>		<u>(2,765)</u>	<u>(21,182)</u>
	Scouting Activities		
870	RC Section - Joeys	(1,455)	18
3,788	RC Section - Cubs	2,982	951
7,563	RC Section - Scouts	3,084	8,692
1,516	RC Section - Venturers	2,612	420
(139)	RC Section - Rovers	5,582	(144)
2,014	RC Section - Activities	(529)	3,393
(1,327)	RC Section - Others	(1,514)	(1,452)
(272)	International Section	(288)	(288)
(17,403)	Gang Show	6,865	5,361
(56)	Districts	(203)	(1,440)
<u>(3,447)</u>		<u>17,135</u>	<u>15,511</u>
950	Leader Training	1,876	2,712
(3,320)	Property	2,460	11,650
<u>(69,787)</u>	Net Region Cost of Operation	<u>(43,217)</u>	<u>(52,885)</u>

Paul Thompson
Region Treasurer

REGION OFFICE

We have now completed our five year service in the office and doesn't time fly when you are having fun.

When you read this report we will have completed receiving and verifying the applications for the Joey Fun Day, the Cub Fun Day at the Jamborette and around 1000 applications for the Region Jamborette. Thanks to Matt Thompson for the new registration system which is much easier to process.

The work load never seems to get any less even with the introduction of the new Scoutlink computer system by State Office. Hopefully when it is fully operational and groups are responsible to manage their own records, then we will have more time to spend on other region matters.

Thanks to the visitors to the office who are patient when we are handling their enquiries, answering the phone or writing a receipt. It is nice to deal with pleasant people and makes our job more enjoyable. We would ask that if you arrive at the office on closing time you understand that we may hurry you out as we have children to collect from school and take them to various scouting and sporting activities.

It is always a pleasure to work with the region team and we miss the visits from Geoff McGrath who was always available to assist with the many tasks we asked him to help with. We hope you are recovering from your recent operation and look forward to your visits again in the future.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Adult Awards Presentation in October at Wentworthville Leagues and catching up on the latest news.

Kim Harris & Maggi Roynon
Office Assistants



BUNDILLA SCOUT CAMP

It has been another big year at Bundilla with many groups, both scouting and non- scouting conducting camps, funs days, motorhome rally and much more.

There is a lot of interest from outside the scouting movement to use Bundilla as organisations get to learn the virtues of our wonderful facility so close to the city and transport. We even have a school from Griffith who book each year, and in the past 12 months they have visited us three times for their various activities.

We are looking at having the old grey block boy's shower block outside the Peter Waite Room converted into two disabled toilets and are looking for financial assistance by way of Government Grants. This will be a facility we can offer to groups with disabled members.

We recently had a group of Venturers from North Rocks camp with us and they completed a number of tasks which needed to be carried out, it was a great help.

Last year we set up a Bundilla Committee to be responsible to identify and arrange for projects to be carried out. Unfortunately due to many other more pressing matters we did not really get off the ground but we will reactivate this committee in the second half of this year.

The camp has been used by many groups from our region this year, some for the first time and they all commented on our excellent facilities. The Guides have also used our facilities on a number of occasions and have booked for a number of weekends in the coming year.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Bundilla Scout Camp in the future.

David & Tracey Stopps
Caretakers
Bundilla Scout Camp



SECTION REPORTS

JOEY SCOUTS

It's been another great year for Joey Scouts in the Greater Western Sydney Region. While some numbers have reduced in some areas, we've seen them increase in others keeping our numbers hovering around the sub 200 level. We've also seen a fair number of new leaders complete their training while others have moved on. With a 2 year span, it's normal to see a high turn over in the Joey section, I commend all the leaders in GWS for doing a great job in maintaining the stability of the Joey section, often seen as the gateway to scouting for both leaders and youth.

In May 2014 we had the NSW State Konara "Our World" at the Glenfield Scout Activity Centre. we had 31 leaders from GWS. GWS ran a games base, other bases included "Land & Sea", Tie Dying and transfers, International Monsters, International Cooking, Music, mapping, World Environment Badgework, Crafts and the Flying Fox. It was an awesome weekend full of ideas and resources for leaders to take back to their mobs including a Lego USB filled with resources.. A special thanks to our State Commissioner Joey Scouts (SCJS) Lyn Mann for organising it and Hume Region for hosting it. The Konara also saw GWS sell a large number of our Woonona Joey Scout back packs. They can now be seen all over the state.

In September we held the inaugural GWS Woonona "Scouting for Joeys" at Castle Mountain, near Wisemans Ferry. We had a fantastic weekend with 51 Joeys and 71 Helpers, half slept in huts and the other half in tents. Bases on the saturday included Joey Geocaching,



archery, animals, flying fox, climbing wall, science, Jungle Book as well as the Gang Show. We had a great camp fire led by Lyn Mann (SCJS). On Sunday we had a hike to the top of Castle Mountain which offered great views back to our camp site and of the Dharug National Park. I'd like to thank all the leaders and parent helpers for making this a great weekend. I also need to thank BankWest for the Happy Communities Grant for this event, Outback Steakhouse for providing Dinner, Karl Humphreys of Event Technical Services for providing communications during the event, and Mayhem Corp for helping us source those fantastic Joey Scout Back Packs.

Our Joey Scout Leaders were well represented in the Adult Recognition Awards. It was great to see Charlie McLean posthumously awarded the Silver Emu. Congratulations to Peter Barber, Greg Boxall, Julie Overton, Kathryn Pierce, Dianne Quan and myself for being recognised for your valuable support to the scouting movement.

Unfortunately during the year we lost Barbara Flemming (Region Commissioner Joey Scouts - Hume Region). Barbara played a big roll in hosting the Konara, but before that she had 40 years of service to scouting, her funeral was very well attended by scouting people from all over. Barbara had been unwell for quite some time, may she now rest in peace.

During the year we went from 171 to 191 Joeys. We had 63 resignations and 49 went up to cubs. We are currently sitting at 74 Leaders across 25 Joey Mobs.

There are several key people that I need to thank for all there help through out the year. Our District Leaders Leonie Plummer & Valerie Lockman for being very flexible and helping out across multiple districts. Kim and Maggie for all there hard work in the region office and very prompt replies to all my enquiries. Anne Thompson for always supporting our fun days, Woonona and Youth Helper courses. Cassie Rec for being a great support for our leaders special needs enquiries. Neville Henderson and David Stopps for having faith in us running a major event (Woonona). Tony Dent (Region Commissioner Special Duties) for being a great and value sounding board for my over-enthusiastic and wacky ideas. finally our State Commissioner Lyn Mann, for being super supportive and always making herself available for our major events and promise challenges.

Now the Joey Section couldn't run without all our enthusiastic leaders. I thank you all for your hard work and dedication to scouting. Joeys may only be 1 hour a week, but a lot of leaders don't realise how intense

that 1 hour can be compared to the other sections, Joeys works because you all put your heart and soul into it and it shows. Thank you.

Looking forward, GWS Joeys has big plans for the future. We hope to run our next Woonona in late 2016 combined with other regions. We are continuing to promote the "Out" in Scouting, with more Camp Fires, Mob Hlolidays and Bush Walking. In 2015 we are celebrating 25 years of Joey Scouts, with District, Region and State events. Another item on the horizon is the Youth Program review. we look forward to it's outcomes and are anticipating a lot of discussion over possible age ranges and potential changes to the Mob participation scheme.

To all our supporters, Hop Hop Hop.

Yours in Scouting

Brian Zarth (Magpie)
Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)



Promise Challenge 2014-2015

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1st Balcombe Heights
- Dylan Lieu
- Mackenzie Sherman | 1st North Rocks
- Aidan Macarthur
- Alec Mitchell
- Ethan Kang |
| 1st Carlingford
- Benjamin Verco
- Daniel Whelan
- David Guo
- Emily Ford
- Jacob Gill
- Jasmin McKnight
- Oliver Cooper
- Ramez Razi
- Steven Lin
- Triana Ho | 1st Oakville
- Cameron Darlington
- Jack Miller
- Lachlan Milosh |
| 1st Erskine Park
- Benjamin Leary
- Liam Spinks | 1st Parramatta
- Galexia Donna-Aroon
- Joanna Joseph
- Joel Pleffer
- Milena Michalicek |
| 1st Greystanes
- Bailey Edwards | 1st Quakers Hill Doonside
- Chloe Keaton
- Thomas Wilson |
| 1st Kings Langley
- Georgina Roper | 1st Springwood
- Declan Vane |
| | 2nd Castle Hill
- Elle Jessen
- Krystal Jessen
- Sean Hodge
- Taliya Kyprianou |

CUB SCOUTS

As usual everyone in the Cub Scout section has been kept very busy with an endless variety of activities and courses.

Jungle Safari Palaver took place at Bundilla on August 9. The day was well attended and it was good to see everyone taking part in the activities and games and enjoying the delicious roast lunch cooked by Pinnaroo Fellowship.

The **State Cub Pack Challenge** – to create a useful gadget from all natural materials – was proudly won by Red Six from 1st Rydalmere Cub Pack. They created a wooden and rope contraption to suspend mess kits from! Congratulations to all involved in the construction.

Cub Baanya was held at Bundilla on the first weekend in November. This annual camp affords our older Cubs the opportunity to camp and work in Patrols under the guidance of volunteer Scouts and the encouragement of Leaders and to ensure they look forward to moving up to the Scout section.

The twice yearly **Cub Scout Leadership Courses** continue to be very popular. The Cubs enjoy the full day course, which runs very smoothly thanks to the wonderful games, sessions and activities organised by the Region Seeonee team and the superb catering by members of Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship and the Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship.

We started this year off with a **Programing Night** on February 27 in an effort to encourage CSLs to seriously look at how they program their Pack Meetings and outings and to share some ideas and readymade Programmes with them. Good programming is a key ingredient for maintaining harmony in the group and ensuring continued growth in pack numbers.

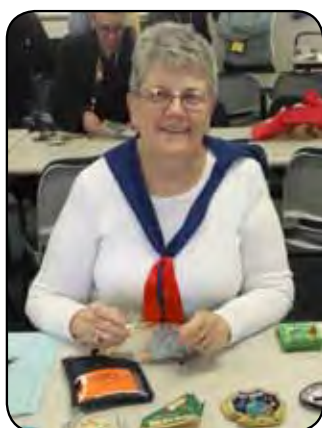




GWSR leaders with SCCS at Palaver's formal dinner



Shirley Robinson prepares a tasting platter for GWSR base on Germany



Tricia Shaw at the sales table

The annual **Youth Helpers Course** was held on May 9 for thirteen enthusiastic young Venturers. Some of the Venturers were already working with Mobs and Packs and the remaining Venturers were encouraged to contact their JSLs and CSLs to offer their services ASAP. It would be wonderful to see every Pack in the Region with a Youth Helper; they have Scouting knowledge and skills they can share and the cubs relate well with a 'big brother or sister'.

The Cub Scout section's Firefighters base went over well with the Joey Scouts at the **Joey Scout Fun Day** on May 17. Congratulations to Brian Zarth RCJS and his Team for a most successful event and thank you for inviting us to be part of it.

State Palaver was held in Katoomba from May 22 to 24. Twenty leaders from GWSR boarded 'Castaway Cruises - The Cub Boat' for a fun and informative weekend. Our sincere thanks to Tricia Shaw SCCS and her Cub Council, for organising such a great event.

At the time of this report, all of our Districts are busy preparing their bases for **Cub Day at the Jamborette**

– **Fantasy**. Registrations came in thick and fast via the new EMS created by Matt Thompson, RC PR and Communications. Congratulations to Matt on a great system (your parents are very proud of you), best wishes to Robin Garrett and his Team for a safe and successful Jamborette and we hope the weather is kind to us!

Congratulations to all fifty two Cub Scouts who have achieved their **Grey Wolf Award** during the past year and well done to the Leaders who helped them achieve this award. The Cubs have put a lot of effort into creating some excellent resources for use in the Packs when running Jungle Book Programmes or instructing New Chums and it is nice to see these on display when I am invited along to a Grey Wolf Presentation. We also shared many of these resources at the recent State Palaver – my sincere thanks to the Leaders who trusted me with them – they made an excellent display.

District Seonee Team:

- Blue Mountains and Penrith City District - Melissa Harding DLCS
- Hills South District - Gabie Thompson DLCS
- Hawkesbury District - John Aquilina CSL 1st Glossodia and DLCS
- Parramatta District - Virginia Klomp CSL and Seonee Leader
- Holroyd District - Jeff Hook CSL 1st Westmead and Seonee Leader
- Region Advisor - Shirley Robinson

These wonderful Leaders continue to spend countless hours in the service of Scouting, and I can't thank them enough for all their dedication, hard work, experience, patience, friendship and support.

Special thanks and congratulations to **Shirley Robinson** who has just received her **40 Years' Service award** – a truly remarkable and amazing achievement. Bravo Shirley and please don't think of retiring – we need your continued input and support!

Coming Events:

Super Saturday @ AJ2016 – Cataract Scout Park – plans are well underway for January 9, 2016 when the Cub Scouts will visit the Australian Jamboree. This time the Cubs and Leaders will be given market dollars, so they can participate in all the fun activities of Market Day – I hope the Scouts are prepared for the onslaught!

Centenary of Cub Scouting 2016 – next year we will be celebrating 100 years of the Cub Scout section. Many

special events are being planned and National has just launched a badge design competition just for Cub Scouts. The winning badge design will be worn by all CSLs and Cub Scouts from Founders Day 2016.

Special Thanks to Kim and Maggie in our Region Office for their hard work, continued support and friendship; to David Stopps Deputy Region Commissioner for his friendly advice and support; to Bundilla's Caretakers Tracey, Dave and their family for all their assistance with any events held at Bundilla; Tricia Shaw, State Commissioner Cub Scouts, for cooking on Leadership Courses and always visiting our special events; my husband

Paul Thompson, who is always on hand to support me in my role, use his wood working skills to create anything I need and to help out with an endless array of jobs that need to be done; and finally our Region Commissioner Neville Henderson for all his support and encouragement, the generous use of Bundilla for our meetings and activities and for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit the Cub Scouts and their Leaders at Region events.

Anne Thompson (Wontoffa)
Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts)



Grey Wolf Awards 2014-2015



2nd Baulkham Hills

Cassandra Fry
James Farrell

1st Blackheath

Theo Walsh

1st/2nd Blacktown

Iluka Jelley
Ryan Dring

1st Blaxland

Niamh Langridge
Skye Jardine
Owen Emerson
Jack Hirst

1st Carlingford

Laura Wilkie
Carly Verco
Dallas Owen
Lucy White
Charlize Walters
Lucy Stevens
Zosia Ellis

1st Castle Hill

Abbey Horman
Patrick Henson

2nd Castle Hill

Alex Quan
Loren Green
Ryan Cagney

1st Ermington

Hugo Hose
James Ryan
Belle-Star Avery
Natasha Ball

1st Erskine Park

Amelia Leary

1st Greystanes

Daniel Dring

1st Grose Vale

Jack Linfoot

1st Hawkesbury

Blair Kardel
Brandon Kent

1st Hazelbrook

Paris Laurendet

1st Kellyville

Hayden Bonitz
Harrison Ringrose
Ryan Finucane
Mathew Dixon
Corey Brooke
Aaron Harmeling

1st Kings Langley

Amanda Borazio
Caitlin Lloyd

2nd Kings Langley

Dale Abnett

1st/2nd Merrylands

Neleh Price

1st North Rocks

Emelia Macarthur
Christopher Ceccato

1st Oakville

Lachlan Watts
Emma Merryfull
Samantha Harber
Madison Harris

1st Quakers Hill/Doonside

Emma Wilson
Tyrone Freeman

1st South Penrith

Braedyn Urban
Benjamin Howse
Casey Riley
Alex Drysdale

1st Toongabbie

Sophie Fry
Emma Cutbush

1st Winston Hills

Angus Katen
Jamie Burke

SCOUTS

A vacancy still exists for someone to take up the role of assistant Region Commissioner (Scouts). We have someone filling the role of Mentor for the Scout Youth Councils (SYC) but need someone else as he is very busy.



Preparations for the Australian Jamboree in 2016 is well under way. We will have 10 Troops with 341 Scouts, 14 Venturers and 115 adults already accepted to go. Troop Leaders and Assistant Troop Leaders have been appointed and Troops formed. Shake down camps are expected to start happening after July.



Jamboreette for 2014 was very successful. Theme was "Pirates of the Greater West". Main issue we had was the State Registration system which many people found difficult to use and which generated

four times the paperwork than we were used to, but it was perhaps a good introduction to the Jamboree registration system which is very similar. We had 537 Scouts and 361 others including Venturers and adults. We had 29 activity bases with various dressed up people in pirate outfits.

This year's Jamboreette is well under way with 32 activity bases nominated and our numbers expected to reach the 1,000 with an increase in outer Region Scouts and leaders coming as well. Being a pre-Jamboree year many are wanting to make up their three consecutive nights under canvass. Theme for the Jamboreette is "Fantasy" with a number of various fantasy themed bases planned, including "Fairy Godmother Boot Camp".



During the year, GWSR Scouts and Leaders took part in a number of activities both in and outside our Region: Scout Hike in the Wingello State Forest in May; State Rally at Cataract Scout Park in August; as well as a Region Caving activity which attracted a lot of interest.

A major achievement was the record number of Scouts who participated in the many ANZAC day services held within our Region. This year was the Centenary of ANZAC so there was a lot of interest from within and

without the movement. Hopefully with the increased number of Scouts at these events helped to raise the profile a little.

Our Region Scout Youth Council (SYC) has struggled a little to get organised for regular meetings but have managed to meet to decide on Jamboreette theme, Jamboreette badge and other discussions. Attendance at State SYC was well represented by our Region. The current chair person has gone up to Venturers early but the Deputy has taken on the responsibility.



The Executive will be due for elections at our June Jamboreette. Some Districts are running a District SYC while others still need to get going.

I'd like to recognise and congratulate the Scouts who have been awarded their Adventurer (Green) cords and the Australian Scout Medallion (ASM). As was seen last year, the quality of ASM projects has been remarkable. We have also had a record number of ASM presentations this year. Recipients of the ASM are:



Coen Moore	1st Blackheath
Sienna Archer	1st Winston Hills
Elysia Higgins	1st Ermington
Marni Collier	1/2 Blacktown
Meagan Smith	1st Oakville
Byron Davis	1st North Rocks
Cooper Vanderjagt	1st South Penrith
Bethany Mercieca	1st Blaxland
Jordan Vella	1st Grose Vale
Mitchell Gallagher	1st Kings Langley

B-R-A-V-O to you all!

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 Region has completed another busy year in the Venturer Scout section with a huge number of activities on offer and recording some great achievements.

The past 12 months has seen another 6 Queen's Scouts being awarded in the Region! BRAVOOO!



Over 120 Venturer Scouts from the Region attended the 2014 Jamborette and did a superb job working to deliver almost half of the activity bases at the event. A huge thank you to everyone for their effort in developing the activities and promoting themselves so well to the Scout section. Thank you as well to 1st Springwood for opening the rock climbing wall for our Sunday night Try Venturing activity. It was great to see so many of our older Scouts taking the opportunity to meet with their local Units over the weekend.

Hamish Edwards from 1st Erskine Park, Rose Mercieca from 1st Blaxland and Meglyn Dent from 1st/2nd Blacktown were selected to attend the 2014 Mawson Scholarship in Leadership and represented the Region well.



Rat Skin 2014: Fairy Tales was once again highly competitive, with GWS achieving second and third in this year's event. Congratulations to each of the Units that organised activities, and to the many adults from the Region that competed in this event.



Waratah 2014: Enter The Tahrdis was held at Bangalee Scout Camp in November. A good attendance by Venturer Scouts from across NSW ensured the success of the weekend with over 60 adults volunteering to assist in a tribute

to Doctor Who. Thank you especially to the GWS Rock Team for running our abseiling base and the SCAT Canoe Team for helping with the boating activity.

Team "Torchwood!" from 1st Kandos/3rd Bathurst is to be congratulated on winning the Waratah competition for 2014. Second Place was awarded to the "Techno Magicians" from 1st Illaroo and Third Place was awarded to "Raxicoricofalipatorius" from 1st Ermington/1st Kellyville/Peel Valley.

29 Venturer Scouts and 4 Adult Leaders from the Region attended the Australian Venture in Adelaide in January.



The arrival into Adelaide was a hot 35 degree day and, given the bushfires in South Australia at the time, was a shock to most of the Venturers. The opening ceremony was held in the Adelaide Arena and a welcome relief to the heat. From here, participants left on a range of five day expeditions including Sailing, Kangaroo Island Adventures, Scuba Diving, Caving, Canoeing, Food Tours, Motor Racing and Scenic Tours. The bushfires in and around Adelaide resulted in some expeditions moving locations at times, but the Venturers took it all as part of the adventurer, including two units which were evacuated from camp during the night.

In choosing the expeditions, Venturers are placing themselves into a group they have often never met. By the end of five days together however, and with the friendship and support they provide each other, it would be easy to believe they have been long term friends.

On returning to Woodhouse, participants continued to experience the extremes of South Australian weather. After five days of hot and dry conditions, the heavens opened to 48 hours of continual rain. Thankfully the cool weather removed the danger of bushfire and let the Venturers relax and enjoy the many daily activities on offer for the remainder of the event.

After a thoroughly enjoyable experience, all of our participants high recommend the 17th Australian Venture to be held on the Gold Coast in January 2018.

During the summer holidays, a couple of our youth members also attended the 2nd National Adventurous Activities School in Queensland, while Jarrod Mutton of 2nd Baulkham Hills returned home from his SISEP experience in Denmark.

Our Region Hike in February saw over 100 walkers join the activity, with roughly a third completing their Level 1 Bushwalking Qualification as a result. More than 1,400kg was carried in back packs for the weekend and some 200 bacon and egg rolls were consumed on Sunday breakfast.

I would like to express my appreciation to my team that do such a great job in helping to manage the Region. Matt Vella, Steve Wallace, Judy Barr and Shaun Lesslie each bring great experience and leadership to the Venturer Scout section, of which I am most grateful.

Thank you as well to every Adult Leader, Fellowship Member and Youth Member in the Region for joining together to ensure that everyone can enjoy the huge range of opportunities that continue to expand in the Venturer Scout section.

Aaron Wardle

Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts)

ROVERS

What a year it's been. It's seen some great successes, and some spectacular failures. But you win every battle. The work we have all done is a testament to both ourselves, and the attitudes of the region. It's a year we can collectively be proud of, well done *pats on back*.

The events we've attended alone is enough to impress; Moots, too many to count, a list of service activities so long, the paper used to write the list could spell service, a pool party (hold the water), so on and so forth. Some events of noteworthy exception include; our very own region moot; Man Vs Monster Moot, with all the hard work and effort of 2nd Castle Hill Rover Crew culminating

in a spectacle of GWS force, some 160 participants strong. Through Service Moot, we were able to giving some much needed attention to 4th Castle Hill Scout Hall. As always, we came out in force at Dragonskin; with much of the on VOC staff for VOC4 coming from within the region, and half of the bases coming from within our region. The impact we have on these events, and others reaches far and wide, beyond the bounds of this section, and it's members.

Looking holistically, at the region, we have much more to be proud of than just events. We've seen the introduction of a new crew; 1st Blacktown Rover Crew, bringing our total up to nine. Our membership base has grown. This time last year, we had 111 members, now we have 120. In rovers, there's always room for one more. Every member within this region has also completed their Work Health and Safety modules on eLearning, and most have completed their Child Safe (or the other way around, one of the two has been done).

When I began last year, I set two goals: To strengthen ties within the region, so we could act as a single cohesive unit, rather than individual, and independent crew; and to increase the flow on from the Venturer section, to Rovers. I know, because I checked my report. While I'll be the first to say we aren't up there with the best yet, I'd like to think that we've made strides. As I've mentioned, we've grown in numbers, which has hopefully come partly from the Venturer section, and as the ties between our crews is much harder to gauge, I'll leave that up to you to decide.

Looking forward, there are many opportunities to excel, with the Jamborette, Waratah, and the Jamboree coming up. The only thing I would say as advice is; the worst thing you can do is sit back and watch everything pass you by.

Good work, and good luck for the year ahead.

Angus Boxall

Region Rover Council Chairman 2014-15



2014 ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS



SILVER KANGAROO – for Eminent Achievement and Meritorious Service

HENDERSON OAM, Neville ----- Region Commissioner, Greater Western Sydney Region



SILVER EMU – for Sustained and Exceptional Service

MCLEAN, Charlie (Deceased) ----- District Joey Scout Leader, Blacktown District

THOMPSON, Anne ----- Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts), Greater Western Sydney Region

YENDLE, Charles ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 3rd Merrylands Cub Pack



SILVER KOALA – for Distinguished Service

GARRETT, Robin ----- Region Commissioner (Scouts), Greater Western Sydney Region

LEAHY, John ----- Region Leader (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region



SILVER WATTLE – for Outstanding Service

DOUGLASS, Annette ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Parramatta Cub Pack

FELL, John Mark ----- Region Commissioner (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region

MORT, Teresa ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Venturer Unit

RIGG, James ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Scout Troop "Bartoo"

WARDLE, Aaron ----- Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts), Greater Western Sydney Region

WOOD, Stuart ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Cub Pack

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD – for Outstanding Service

APTHORPE, Linda ----- Fellowship Member, Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship

THOMPSON, Paul ----- Region Treasurer, Greater Western Sydney Region

WILSON, Adrian ----- Fellowship Member, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD – for Excellent Service

FENNELL, Pauline ----- Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Troop

FITZSIMMONS, Guy ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Cub Pack "Kookaburra"

HOARD, Nicholas ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Venturer Unit

MAJOOR, Michael ----- District Delegate, Greater Western Sydney Region

MASSIE, Gary ----- Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Troop

REC, Cassie ----- Group Leader, 1st North Rocks Scout Group

ROSE, Derek ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Cub Pack

SELWOOD, Shane ----- Group Leader, 1st Winston Hills Scout Group

STEWART, Meredith ----- Region Leader (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region

WILLIAMS, Brett ----- Region Adviser, Greater Western Sydney Region

SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD – For Good Service

ANDERSON, Helen ----- Group Secretary, 1st Oakville Scout Group

ASTLEY, Jodie ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Blacktown Venturer Unit

BARBER, Peter ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Joey Mob

BONE, Alan ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Scout Troop

BOWDEN, Dharma ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Cub Pack "Alleena"

BOXALL, Gregory ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Joey Mob

CAINE, Gavin ----- Supporter, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Group

CONNOR, Elena	Assistant Group Leader, 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Group
CORDELL, Wallace	Scout Leader, 1st Cambridge Park Scout Troop
CRUMP, Joshua	Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Venturer Unit
DRYSDALE, Darren	Group Leader, 1st South Penrith Scout Group
DUFFY, Nathan	Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Springwood Venturer Unit
EDWARDS, Jason	Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Erskine Park Venturer Unit
FOWLER, Trevor	Cub Scout Leader, 1st Greystanes Cub Pack
FROST, Jeanette	Cub Scout Leader, 1st Toongabbie Cub Pack
GREELY, Matthew	Group Vice-President, 1st Oakville Scout Group
GRUNDY, Jane	Associate Leader (Group), 1st Springwood Scout Group
HARBER, Geoff	Group President, 1st Oakville Scout Group
HARRIS, Mathew	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Cub Pack
HARVEY, Steven	Scout Leader, 1st St Marys Scout Troop
HAYES, Alister	Venturer Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Venturer Unit
HEINRICH, Leonie	Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Hawkesbury Scout Troop
HILTON, Scott	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Cub Pack "Darzee"
HOLLOWAY, James	Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Venturer Unit
HOSE, Michelle	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Cub Pack "Blaxland"
HRAST, Joanne	Assistant Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Scout Troop
INGLETON, Colin	Group Leader, 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Group
LAWRENCE, Robert	Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show
MARLOW, Guy	Group Treasurer, 1st Kings Langley Scout Group
MASON, Kristine	Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Venturer Unit
MCCULLOCH, Karen	Group Chairman, 1st Hawkesbury Scout Group
MCKINLAY, Karin	Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Grose Vale Scout Troop
MCLELLAN, Alexandra	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Castle Hill Cub Pack "Nackara"
NAPIER, Quentin	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Cub Pack "Barloo"
OVERTON, Julie	Joey Scout Leader, 1st Greystanes Joey Mob
PEIRCE, Kathryn	Joey Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Joey Mob
PRIEST, Tracey	Group Leader, 1st Cambridge Park Scout Group
QUAN, Dianne	Joey Scout Leader, 2nd Castle Hill Joey Mob
ROYNON, Margaret	Region Office Assistant, Greater Western Sydney Region
SMART, Patricia	Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Hazelbrook Scout Troop
SMID, Eleanore	Group Treasurer, 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Group
STAMMINGER, Nicholas	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Cub Pack "Alleena"
VAN DER VOORT, Adrian	Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Springwood Venturer Unit
WADE, William	Assistant Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Troop
WHIDDON, Andrew	Scout Leader, 2nd Castle Hill Scout Troop
WILLARD, Rex	Group Deputy Chairman, 1st Toongabbie Scout Group
ZARTH, Brian	Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts), Greater Western Sydney Region

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

This year has seen a lot of changes to the training of leaders in scouting.

The major change has been to the program for the residential weekends. The basic sectional techniques weekend is now called a basic practical supplement weekend because it has become very practical. Leaders are expected to implement skills talked about throughout the e-learning modules. Cub, Scout, Venturer and Rover leaders are asked to camp for the weekend. This is putting the "out" into scouts.

Another change this year is that the training of leaders to be in scouting is now a separate process from gaining qualifications. Scouts Australia is still a Registered Training Organisation which offers certificate II, III and IV but applicants must apply separately. The workbooks from e-learning form part of the portfolio to be submitted to the RTO. This year we have had a number of leaders achieve these certificates and congratulations to those people.

The certificate IV booklet is part of the advanced training and as well as the certificate IV leaders achieve their wood badge. Lord Baden-Powell did not think a leader was fully trained until they had achieved their wood beads. Congratulations to Richard Burr, Nerida Ewings, Andrew Bath, Michael Cook, Kelly Wallace and Tony Calafate for getting their wood beads this year.

We ran a number of successful Bushwalking courses last year. All Scout, Venturer and Rover leaders need the bushwalking level 1 qualification. Our idea of combining the Region hike run by Aaron Wardle with a bushwalking course sounded good at the time. Despite a lot of rain the hike achieved what was intended with about 30 people getting their bushwalking certificate. We are a fortunate Region in that we have quite a few leaders qualified in different skills who are able to act as subject matter experts to help others with hikes, workshops and courses.

As well as managing the changes, the training team has had to help ensure that all leaders are up to date with current legislation and so all leaders and rovers had to do Child Safety and Work Health Safety modules. Our next challenge is to get everyone with a Working With Children number. This means that Scouts Australia members are seen to be the responsible adults that we are.

Thank you to all the training team, Tony Dent, Jeff Hook and Aafke Fatcher-Hall, for their help in looking after the GWs members. I would also like to thank our State team members, Carol Cope, Frank Barr and Stuart Cowen for their support.

Finally I would like to thank all the Personal Leader advisors for the wonderful mentoring of new leaders that has occurred this year. We have interviewed, trained and signed off over 100 leaders during 2014.

Kathy Cuneo

Region Commissioner
(Adult Training & Development)

COMMUNICATIONS & PR

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).

In 2014, Scouts NSW introduced 'Kym' our very own life size mascot. Kym comes in a Joey, Cub, Scout or Venturer coloured shirt. Any Group, District or Region can hire Kym to attend Scouting and public events to help promote Scouting in the community. You can hire Kym from Scouts NSW for \$50 - check out their website for more info.



My focus for the Region over the last couple of years has been to use web-based technology to better assist the Region to effectively plan and organise events. With a few gentle nudges from Robin Garrett to build a system to process registrations for the Annual Region Jamboree, I undertook the project. Now, nearly 1.5 years into its development, the system was finally launched in May 2015 and is known as the 'Region EMS' (Event Management System) - www.events.greaterwestscouts.com.au

The Region EMS was built with the following goals in mind:

1. Provide one system for all Scout members in GWS Region to register to attend Region activities.
2. The system should allow users to create a user

account that stores registrations (and their associated applications) and allows them to re-login in the future to view status of previous registrations (and their associated applications) and also register for new events.

3. The system should have an easy to use interface (representing good navigation, layout and clean formatting/design).
4. The system should contain all necessary features for Event Coordinators and Region Office Staff to effectively create, update and administer Region Events.
5. The system should be able to easily track registrations and payments.
6. The system should provide all necessary reports to Event Coordinators and Region Office Staff to effectively monitor the status of event registrations.

I believe we have achieved these goals and more, with the system capable of being used for multiple events at the same time, and with many in-built rules and features that suit many of our unique event requirements. The system has recently been successfully tested in the live environment when it was used for the first time for 3 of our major Region events; Joey Fun Day, Region Jamborette and Cub Day @ Jamborette. Region Waratah registrations are also starting to be accepted through the Region EMS.

Of course, with any new system there are improvements that can be made. I have taken all feedback on board and have a very full list of features to implement, including linking the membership checks with ScoutLink. By the start of 2016 I hope to have all Region events, workshops and courses available for everyone to register for on the Region EMS.

I would like to thank Neville for his continued support of me and for his interest in this project. I would also like to acknowledge and thank my team of testers, Brian Zarth, Steve Wallace, Aaron Wardle, John Greaves, Maggi Roynon and Kim Harris.

I would like to extend my thanks to our Bulletin Editor, Anne Thompson for all the hard work and many hours she puts into collating articles and publishing our monthly newsletter - please make sure you all read every edition! My thanks also to our Website Content Editor, Suzanne Cornell for all her help with keeping our website and Region calendar updated!

Matt Thompson

Region Commissioner
(Communications & PR)

INTERNATIONAL

This year saw our Region involved in various International activities and events.

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

- Region Jamborette
- 8th Victorian Cuboree
- 1st Westmead Groups 75th Anniversary

In addition Greater Western Sydney Region had members in attendance at the following International events:

- Fiji National Jamboree
- German National Jamboree
- Iceland National Jamboree
- 12th World Youth Forum Slovenia
- 40th World Scout Conference Slovenia
- Scout Friendship Tour England
- Scout International Student Exchange Program England
- 27th World Conference International Scouts and Guides Fellowship, Sydney Olympic Park

We had leaders from New Zealand, Hong Kong, New Caledonia and USA visit during the Year.

Other International items of interest occurring during the past twelve months were as follows:

- 1st Kings Langley was host for five months to a German Scout who participated within the Group
- The International Explorers Award was presented to scout Furgan Chowhury of 1st Toongabbie Group
- Scout Leader and Scout from the Arbuckle Area Council Oklahoma attended the Region Jamborette at Bents Basin, the Leader assisting on the International Base and his son camped with Holroyd District
- Our Region has been more involved with the Scout International Student Exchange Program both in participating and home hospitality
- New Years Eve met up with a Scouting Family in Sydney from California in true scouting spirit

During the past twelve months the World Bureau has been relocated to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia after being in Geneva, Switzerland for a long time. Also the World Scout Shop has been moved from France to Brighton, England.

While I was in Europe, Bob MacDonald OAM our Branch Commissioner International passed away and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. I was able to attend his memorial service.

The continued support, assistance, commitment and encouragement from members of our Team is very much appreciated, for without such support we would not have achieved so much.

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

Peter Nickl

Region Commissioner (International)

SPECIAL NEEDS SCOUTING

The Special Needs Team has representatives in every Scout Region across NSW. We act as a resource for all Leaders, provide information, support, organise events, and advocate for youth and adults with disabilities. The majority of Scout Groups have youth members with special needs. That may be anything from asthma, allergies, and ADHD to intellectual, physical, and sensory disabilities or mental illness. You may think that many of these youth don't require additional support – but sometimes a little extra support can make a big difference in a child's life. All too often children with disabilities lack opportunities to make friends, participate in the community, grow as individuals, and are excluded from community organisations, and deal with discrimination. Often this happens as people are scared of the unknown, concerned about access, money, extra support required, or increased risk. The Special Needs Team are advocating for change in Scouting by answering these fears and providing support. We are moving towards a more inclusive organisation.

There are so many worthwhile programs and activities in Scouting where we can be creative, flexible, and make adaptations. This provides opportunities for youth with disabilities to participate in the community in a meaningful way. In GWSR and Golden West we have made some progress towards making Scouting inclusive. In the past year I have seen many youth with special needs supported to attend activities, I have heard about the successful adaptations our Leaders have made, and I've witnessed the difference Scouting can make.

This year we need to continue looking for funding opportunities to make our Scout halls and sites more accessible and continue to empower youth with disabilities to do their best.

The Special Needs Team have introduced a new **Special Needs Awareness Elective**, approved by NSW Scouts, which can be run for any group of Leaders, with support from the training team. The elective is 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 elective at a state Konara and more recently in GWSR. The Special Needs Team also presented information at a meeting of Leaders in the Golden West Region. The elective, disability awareness activities, or information sessions can all be tailored to suit your needs – so what do you need to know?

The **Special Needs Conference** is held annually at Pennant Hills, 25-26th July in 2015. This year, for the first time, we are offering an opportunity to attend for Saturday morning only, where you will complete the Special Needs Awareness Elective. Or stay for the whole weekend, create new contacts, develop new skills, and participate in all the activities. Last year we received so many applications that some Leaders missed out, get in now to reserve your place.

The **Superheroes Agoonoree** was held 19-22nd September 2014 at Camp Ku-Ring-Gai. Over 150 attended all or part. The Pinnaroo Fellowship came along and ran a base filled with magical activities – a great sensory experience for all!

The **Medieval Agoonoree** will be held 25-28th September 2015, at Mt Keira Scout Camp. An Agoonoree is a camp open to ALL Scouts and Guides in all Sections, especially Scouts and Guides with special needs. You can attend for a day or the whole weekend.

“The wonderful thing about such boys is their eagerness to do as much in Scouting as they possibly can. They do not want more special tests and treatment than is absolutely necessary” Baden Powell

Cassie Rec

Representative for
Greater Western Sydney and
The Golden West

NSW Scouts
Special Needs Team



ACTIVITIES

This last twelve months has certainly been a big one for the Region Activities Team.

With the rolling out of SIS qualifications, GWS Region was one of the last Regions within the State to be fully implemented into SIS. However once our turn came around; and with some hard work by a good number of leaders in updating their qualifications, we are now one of the more highly qualified SIS Regions within the state. Most of the Activity Team Leaders now have SIS Guide Level in one or more activity disciplines. A number of leaders have even gone further in earning their Certificate 3 in Outdoor Recreation, which is a great achievement. This will ensure a continuing ability within GWS Region, to be able to offer a high level of expertise on a large range of Adventurous Outdoor Activities.

Well that's all the theory side of Activities. What about the **"getting out and actually doing stuff"** side of things.

Our Rock team has been going from strength to strength under the watchful eye of Stuart Cowen. Over the year there have been a good number of Abseiling Workshops, tied in with rescue training days. Much of our focus on abseiling, particularly with the set ups, is moving back to a minimal gear approach, with simple, but high effective lowering/ rescue systems built into our set ups. Big thank you to Mick Fry, who has been able to provide professional guidance in this area. Along with Abseiling, we have also run a number of Top Rope Courses.

Ross Smith, our passionate Canyon Expert, has certainly brought canyoning back onto the activities agenda. Ross has led a number of trips into some of the more remote, but spectacular areas of the Blue Mountains. I



know many of us have enjoyed some of his stories and photos, in the Region Bulletin, over the year

Rock Activities does not always have to be above ground. The hard work of Meredith Stewart has certainly brought caving into the lime light, with a number of trips to Bungonia and Wee Jasper, along with trips to some of the lesser known cave systems. Not only are we seeing 70+ participants on some of these trips, we have enjoyed the company of participants from other Regions, and even interstate. For me personally, the thrill of combining the skills of abseiling down a black hole while caving is certainly one of those "scouting highlights" that really gets the adrenalin running!

Of course with the renewed interest in rock related activities; this has put a big demand on replacing and updating both hardware and ropes. Added to this, a lot of gear including helmets and harnesses are now required to be replaced after 5-7 years, with industry standard **Use by Dates**, very much the norm. This has required some careful financial management, with the modest fees we charge for Activities, to allow us to keep fairly well up to date with gear and equipment.

Water activities have also been active, with a number of canoe workshops and trips which have happened over the year. Big thank you to Tracey Hansford, who has overseen all the water activities, along with organizing the Water Fun Day at Chipping Norton. There have also been a number of dedicated Scout canoe courses we have run, for some of the larger Troops, which are always popular.

I am very keen to get sailing up and running again within the Region, with a number of Sailing Leaders, including Keith Travers and Neal Sullivan, both with SIS Sailing Qualls. We have about half a dozen various types of sailing craft, from gulls; which teach you the basics, to the more exciting 420, which can be quite quick in the

right conditions...and with the right operator! We were also very fortunate to recent acquire a Cherub Sailing Craft to add to our fleet.

One of the more unique activities within our Region is the Science Team led by John Lahey. As I have mentioned previously, the Science Team entertains more youth in our Region than all the other activities combined, over a 12 month period. It is also equally entertaining from Joey age to Rovers, and I know of many leaders also fascinated with some of the tricks John gets up to. John is ably supported by Karl Humphreys, our Radio Guru. If Karl doesn't know about it in regard to radios, it's not worth knowing. Karl's skills have been recognised by State, with his appointment as one of the Jota /Joti Coordinators with the NSW International Team. While the popularity of the Science and Radio Team is still very strong, to maintain that interest, we desperately need to recruit more helpers onto the team.

We are also very fortunate to be one of only a few Regions within the State to have a Flying Fox. Always a great hit at our annual Region Jamboree at Bents Basin. The main challenge with the Flying Fox is the time it takes to set up. This does restrict us in making use of it on a more regular basis. We have, however, run it at both Cub and Joey Fun Days at Bundilla, which have always been a great success.

It is a lesser known fact that both Gang Show and the Circus Team, while certainly run under their respective banners, does come under the Activities Portfolio.

I have been involved back stage with Cumberland Gang Show for quite a few years now, and it is one of those activities which provides opportunity to experience a huge array of skills and experiences. It is not just the actual shows performed that make Gang Show what it is. It's the auditions, the rehearsals, the learning, the nurturing, the teamwork, the dedication, the "I think



I can do this, ...no, I can do this!" attitude that really makes Gang Show what it is.

The Circus Team, while similar to Gang Show in that it offers entertainment for people to see; it is the unique skills that it teaches young people, which really make it what it is. We all laugh when we see a clown doing a juggling act, or riding a unicycle. But to actually learn that skill takes a great deal of discipline, practise and commitment. The Circus Team provides that opportunity.

I know I had said this before, and it has not changed. We are so fortunate at GWS to be able to offer such a huge range of Activities, and it is only because we have such a dedicated team of leaders who give up so much of their time, to share their passion.

Thank you to all who have played a part in the Region Activities Team over the last twelve months. Thank you for your effort and dedication. For me it is an honour, to be a part of, and lead a team, of this calibre.

Mark Fell (Dingo)
Region Commissioner (Activities)





CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

2014 was our 45th season and it was very successful with many patrons praising the new type of production and the staging and technical enhancements. The theme of the show was Imagine with a great mix of new and old original material and commercial songs.

The highlights of this season included the introduction of the Comet Cast of 40 young 7 to 9 year old joey scouts, cub scouts and the guiding equivalent performing in the first act, the performance of the Region Circus Team and receiving the accolade of Champion of the Champions of the West in the Sydney Telegraph and Channel 7 promotion.

The show continued the new look with a large video screen, many personal head microphones and the orchestra at the back of the stage. This meant the cast were in closer proximity to the audience on the thrust stage.

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.

We changed our performance schedule to continue Red Scarf night on the first Friday night and the restoration of three performances on each Saturday.

Whilst the matinees were popular, our season attendance increased on previous years to 4500 patrons attending our 10 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 2014 season again succeeded despite some handicaps. Once again we experienced the yearly frustration of finding suitable warehouses for set construction, set painting and the final rehearsals involving costumes, sets, the stage boxes and the orchestra. We were fortunate to secure a warehouse at Rydalmere which enabled the final rehearsals to occur satisfactorily.

The 2015 show has taken all the best new things from last year and added further exciting initiatives. The theme is Reach and has a great mix of new and old original material and commercial songs. A highlight will be the return of Swan Lake to the programme. The Comet Cast will perform in an increased number of items in the first act.

We have returned to 8 performances by deleting the Saturday morning matinee on each Saturday. We considered these additional matinees placed excessive demands on the cast and crew, especially when bump out occurred after the final performance. We are continuing to conduct all the ticket sales through the theatre box office. Concentrated marketing has continued to be focused towards scouting leaders and scouting sections. Our sponsorship continues to rise with new sponsorship from Wentworthville Leagues Club and the Crown Grant.

The show maintains its mission to engender self confidence in all the Gang through the medium of performing arts. We continue to rehearse at Crestwood High School.

The two rehearsal camps have been most successful and the show is now in the polishing stage heading towards the 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

I retired from paid work in August of last year and do not travel to Lindfield daily. This combined with our limited ability to deliver the Science programs means that we are only attending a couple activities each month, mainly from Groups we enjoy visiting and new Leaders who discover us on the GWS web site.

Reviewing the years activity I see that we still covered all sections from Joeys to Rovers, with programs including Arcs&Sparks, Heart, Hover nights, and Pyro Rockets being popular. We also put on bases for Joey and Cub Fun days, and the Joey Leaders State meeting at Glenfield in May last year.



Karl has continued to expand his capabilities to support JOTA and scout safety communications systems for events by obtaining extra communications equipment such as hand held 2 way radios, mobile phone detectors and signal boosting equipment, as well as perfecting a low earth orbit satellite communications system that was used at the last JOTA/JOTI.

JOTA remains a prime focus of Karl's, and planning is all ready under way for the 2015 JOTA from both the Region and Branch level. To this end he maintains his membership of the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club, attending 'Field Days' and acting as a adviser to the club on matters relating to scouts, assuring GWS of an enthusiastic group of operators for our JOTA weekend.

Our base at the GWSR Jamborette this year featured Karl's Wind powered Savonius power generator and the Scout powered pedal alternator. We've tested the alternatives and now know that the energy crises won't be solved by pedal power, not by this sample of youth anyway! The noisiest demonstration at the Science Base was the Tesla Coil. As well as producing loud



vicious blue arcs at 200,000 volts, it also played tunes. We had taped four 'dead' fluorescent tubes to the legs of the table holding it, and these lit up or dimmed as the sparks were produced.

For JOTA this year, Karl and I went to Mt Keria with Penrith District. Not a good site for radio reception, but the Scouts were kept busy with technology bases, hikes and electronic kit building, including a LED dice and an ingenious metal detector.

Thanks to Ayla Jones for her help when Karl was not available, and Karl Humphreys for his continuing commitment and enthusiasm in explaining and demonstrating the science of nature to our youth; 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

2014 started out with our Cubs and Leaders heading to Cataract for the 5th NSW Cuboree to enjoy a "Once Upon a Time" experience.

There were many District activities held during the year in particular the regular attendance at the annual ANZAC day services, with Groups attending services at Blacktown, Rooty Hill, Riverstone, Sydney and Canberra. 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 District also had many members participate in the Cumberland Gang Show which was at the Riverside Theatres, Parramatta in July.

Cubs enjoyed many activities but unfortunately the annual Billy Cart Derby was not able to be held due to adverse weather conditions.

Regular activities which the Scouts participated in were ScoutHike at Wingello State Forest in May, the Region Jamborette at Bents Basin in June and a Leadership Course in August and a District Hike at Deep Pass in the Blue Mountains in October.

The Venturers participated in Dragon Skin over the Easter weekend and enjoyed the Waratah in November which saw them travelling by public transport to Nowra to "Enter The Tahrdis". Meglyn Dent was awarded the Mawson Scholarship for Leadership. The year ended with the Venturers preparing to head to South Australia for the 'Heaps Good' venture.

The year ended with the formation of the Blacktown Rover crew based at 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Hall, many thanks to those who made sure we have our own Rover Crew in Blacktown District.

We had a number of changes in Group Leaders with the resignation of Col Ingleton from 1st/2nd Blacktown, Brett Williams from 1st Kings Langley and Lorraine Stock from 1st Mt Druitt. These roles have been taken up by Elena Connor, Grant Bennett and Juleen Saville. Alison Sullivan, District Cub Leader and Tracy Stopps, District Scout Leader decided to take on different roles in their lives and I have welcomed Michelle McLean as Seeonee Leader and Andrew Anderson as District Scout Leader, Valerie Lockman has taken on the role as District Joey Scout Leader following the passing of Jock McLean.

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

BLUE MOUNTAINS

The Blue Mountains covers from Glenbrook to Mount Victoria, in that we have four very active Groups, and a Rover Crew and a Fellowship.

Within that make up there are two Joey Mobs soon to be three, five Cub Packs, five Scout Troops, three Venturer Units and one of the Largest Rover Crews in the Region.

The District have supported the Community through a number of activities including ANZAC Day marches, Foundation Day Springwood, and the many Community Fairs that are held in the Mountains.

We have had the pleasure this year of a number of youth members achieving the Highest award in their section,

Joey Promise Challenge
Blake Alguerna

Grey Wolf Award
Rohan Telleman
Theo Walsh
Niamh Landbridge
Skye Jardine
Paris Laurendet

Australian Scout Medallion
Coen Moore

Queen Scout Awards
Melinda Varcoe
Rose Mercieca

Congratulations to all the youth members who have achieved these awards and to all the Leaders and Supporters of the District it is a heartfelt thanks for all your good work.

Tony Dent
Acting District Commissioner

HAWKESBURY

Although there was a fluctuation of youth members, the District is stable in numbers, with a slight increase of youth members within each Group. Within the four (4) groups, including 1st Glossodia, 1st Grose Vale, 1st Hawkesbury, and 1st Oakville, there are a total of two (2) Joey Mob, four (4) Cub Packs, four (4) Scout Troops, and two (2) Venture Units, a growing Rover Crew and the Black Horse Fellowship.

This year also saw many award recipients' awards including:

Cubs – Grey Wolf

- 1st Hawkesbury: Sebastian Ritzrow, Blair Kardel, and Harrison Ringrose.
- 1st Oakville: Emma Merryfull, Lachlan Watts, Samantha Harber, and Maddison Harris.
- 1st Grosevale: Jack Linfoot

Scouts – Scout Medallion

- 1st Oakville: Megan Smith
- 1st Grose Vale: Jordan Vella

Venturers – Queen Scout

- 1st Oakville: Matthew Anderson

Adults – Special Service

1st Oakville

- Geoff Harber – Group Chairperson
- Matt Greely – Group Vice - Chairperson
- Helen Anderson – Group Secretary
- Mathew Harris – Group Leader

1st Hawkesbury:

- Karen McCulloch – Group Chairperson
- Leonie Heinrich – Assistant Scout Leader

1st Grose Vale:

- Karin McKinlay – Assistant Scout Leader

We saw two (2) Groups completing much overdue renovations and extensions; 1st Oakville had the Official opening of their new storage area whilst 1st Hawkesbury completed their renovations which saw the re commissioning of the old 2nd Richmond Hall and relocation for 1st Hawkesbury. We have also seen the



commencement of renovations to 1st Grose Vale hall at Kurrajong which will be complete this year.

This year saw great attendance to all the District activities which included:

Jota / Joti held at Glossodia which was filled with a large variety of communication activities. Founders Day at Windsor Beach which commenced with each Group building a raft then participating in the annual raft race followed by various water activities.

ANZAC Day Services at Pioneer Village where the Scouts lead the March, ANZAC Day March in Richmond which saw one of the largest marches for quite some time, Dawn Service in Windsor where more than 10,000 people watched on and not only did the Scouts participate in the March they were asked to hand out the wreath to the Wreath layers, and Scouts also participated in other ANZAC services in Kurrajong, Freemans Reach, and Wilberforce. The Hawkesbury River Rovers and Venturers attended Dawn Service in Martin Place.

Hawkesbury Show had a great promotional stand where we received many enquiries, two groups picked up new a leader and each group received new youth members trialling scouts. The District Scouts lead the Grand Parade.

St Georges Days had a great turn up with standing room only in the Church, the Joeys put on an excellent display during the telling of the story about St George and how he saved the village.

1st Hawkesbury recently reinstated a Joey Mob with 5 invested Joeys and 4 new chums and working with 1st Oakville Joeys have already achieved their Buddy Badge.

Cub numbers have been stable throughout the year with approximately 75 cubs / new chums across the District. All under the watchful eyes of 12 certified leaders and 4 in training.

The last 12 months have been quiet busy in the Cub section with lots of exciting programs, activities, and outings. All Cubs sections have been working very hard on their Boomerangs and there were eight (8) Grey Wolf awards were presented.

The District Cubs enjoyed many memorable events including:

Cub fun day at Bundilla which was well supported. The cubs enjoyed many activities especially the flying fox and water rockets. The line up never seemed to end.

There was a District walk to Berry Island which was very well attended. It started with a train ride to Woolstone Craft and then a scenic walk through a semi tropical rain forest to Berry Island. After lunch the Cubs ventured onto the walking trails and half way around they stumble onto to a Jazz band playing in the middle of the Island.

There was a District Cub trip to Cockatoo Island for their out and about badge. There were approximately 80 cubs, Leaders, and Parents in attendance on the Day. Transport was a major challenge due to track works on, however Sydney Trains designated to Coaches in and out of Sydney. Another hurdle was leaving Cockatoo Island where we had to leave the DC and a small group behind the River Cat was at maximum capacity. Being a full on day, they were glad to have a rest on the bus ride back to Richmond.

Hawkesbury District Pack Holiday this year was at Austinmer Hall. Due to the restriction in numbers 60 plus cubs/youth helpers and leaders attended. Again State Rail was carrying out Track works however provided an exclusive bus for the Cubs to Granville where they then caught a train. Activities there included Swimming, an indoor Camp Fire as the rain tumbled down outside, and Scouts Own held on the beach on the Sunday morning. It was a great weekend enjoyed by all.



The Cubs attend Founders Day at Windsor Beach where they enjoyed the many water activities.

The Cubs also participated in various ANZAC Day Marches and Dawn Services, Marched in the Grand Parade of the Hawkesbury Show, and finished the year at the St Georges Day Service.

The Cubs look forward to another 12 months of exciting activities in with Hawkesbury District.

The Scout section had a busy year with numerous District and Region activities: Scout Hike, District Rally, Jamborette, and Caving at Wee Jasper.

Each Group completed various Red, Blue, and Green Cord Hikes. There were numerous Hikes including; Canoe, Li-lowing, and Bush walking. There were many camps throughout the District: Survival, Surf, and Bush camps. 1st Oakville had a very successful Family Camp which saw over 100 people attend.

The 1st Glossodia and 1st Oakville Venturer Units continue grow. Jane McCormack returned from her 12 month stay in England to undergo her Venturer Leader training and joined 1st Glossodia Venturers whilst Rose Smith left the Scout section as an ASL and along, with Helen Anderson, are under taking their training to become Venturer leaders for 1st Oakville.

This year saw Matt Anderson complete his Citizenship, Vocations, Leadership, and Unit Management Badges then onto complete his Queens Scout Award.

Apart from the regular hikes and camping trips, they have carried out and attend a wide range of activities including; Scout Hike and ran a base, Dragon Skin, Waratah, organised a base at Jamborette, had a great roll up at Region Hike, Abseiling Course at Bundilla and Yellow Rock, Hiked the Six Foot Track, and had an overnight hike to Blue Gum Forest. Each Unit had their own fun activities including; a Debate night, Pizza cooking and International Cooking nights, Dance night, Game Shown night, Tent set contests, Prepared and helped the Scout with Wide Games.

1st Oakville Venturers had a combined night with the Scouts and visited the RAAF Base.

The Hawkesbury River Rovers have organised and participated in many activities throughout the year which included the attendance of several Moots, Dragon skin, Waratah. The Rovers organised a very successful Christmas in July where they raised much needed funds.

Fellowship continues to fundraise throughout the year

and helping out the District where they can. We thank them for the organising the Hawkesbury Show site, without their support we would not have a Stand at the annual Show.

Through very active Parent Support Committees, all Groups had a successful year in Fund raising with activities including: Helping out at the City to Surf Marathon, Bunnings BBQ, Firewood Raffles, Rotary Raffles, helping out at Power Boat Races, Plant Sales, helping out at the All Holden Day, Rodeos, just to name a few of the Fund Raising activities.

I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to all the Leaders and Parent Support Groups 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, Parent Support Groups, and Parents to make Scouting attractive to all.

Phil Heinrich
District Commissioner

HILLS SOUTH

2014 has been a big year for Scouting in the Hills District.

We have had a change of DJSL with Leonie Plummer taking on the role. A big welcome to Leonie who has been gladly welcomed by both Joeys and Joey leaders within the district. We have had new Joey leaders volunteering in most of our mobs. The Joeys continue to have a great time within their mobs and experience a whole lot of fun.

8 Joey Promise Badges have been awarded in 2014. A big HOP, HOP, HOP.

Cubs continue to grow within the district with all packs very active during the year. A successful district camp was held in September at Mt. Kiera. There have been 9 Grey Wolf awards presented during the year. Badge work continues well in all packs. The cubs continue to experience a wide range of activities and busy programs.

A big plus for the year was the re-opening of West Pennant Hills Valley Cub Pack. At the start of the year



there were only 5 children and they finished the year with 11. With the help of a few experienced leaders, the new leaders have taken on the role of cub leaders with enthusiasm.

A successful Cub Fun Day was held and enjoyed by all. Our DCSL Gabie Thompson continues to support and guide our leaders and cubs within the District.

Scouts in 2014 have had a successful leadership course. Badge work continues although no Green Cords or Scout Medallions presented. At the end of the year, a few scouts were working towards both.

The district was well represented at the Region Jamborette with again one troop winning a gateway trophy. A District wide game was held with much success. The Scout section continue to be very active with outdoor pursuits and adventurous activities. SO a Big BRAVO to all leaders, scouts and our DSL Ian Shield.

Venturers continue with 1 Queen Scout Awarded to Luke Bartlett of 1st Castle Hill. He is now just awaiting presentation at Government House. We have had a change of DVL with Shaun Lesslie taking on the role. A big welcome to Shaun who is giving guidance to our Venturers and Venturer Leaders.

The groups continue to support District, Region and State activities including ANZAC Day Activities, Australia Day Activities, Jamborettes, Cuborees, Scout Hike, Sate Rally, Dragonskin, Leadership Courses, Cub and Joey Fun Days.

Most groups seem to be steadily recruiting new leaders in most sections especially for Joeys, Cubs & Scouts. Some have struggled to recruit but plans are underway for recruitment drives early 2015.

There have been 2 Woodbadges presented in 2014 to leaders within the district:

Ian Lutz: Cub Scout Woodbadge – 1st Kellyville
Ross Smith: Scout Woodbadge – 2nd Castle Hill

Another leader, Jenny Page from 2nd Baulkham Hills was named Hills Citizen of the Year for her 12 years with St. John and 19 years with Scouting. Congratulations to all.

Again I'd like to thank all leaders within the District for giving up their valuable time to guide and lead our youth in the district. Also thanks to the committees of all the groups and also to the leaders families for allowing them to make a worthwhile contribution to the youth under their care.

And finally to my team, Aafke (DL AT&D), Gabie (DCSL & ADC), Leonie (DJSL), Ian (DSL), Shaun (DVSL) & Brian (DA) a big BRAVO to you all as well. Continue the good work and we will have a good 2015.

Gavan Hall
District Commissioner

HOLROYD

Congratulations to Ellen Gray from 1st/2nd Merrylands on achieving her Queen's Scout Award, well done Ellen.

Congratulations to Charles Yendle, Stuart Wood, Linda Apthorpe, Pauline Fennell, Derek Rose, Joshua Crump, Trevor Fowler and Julie Overton who were recognised in the Adult Awards for 2014.

Holroyd District Scouts participated in the many events at Holroyd during the year.

Once again they assisted in the raising of the flags at both the Citizenship Ceremony at Merrylands and again in the afternoon at the Australia Day celebrations at Merrylands Oval, during this event they also held an information and recruitment stall.

Holroyd Leaders also held information stalls at two other events in the Holroyd LGA during the year with varied results as to recruiting, due to this situation a core group of leaders led by Jeannie Wood have formed a District Promotion Team whose sole purpose is to identify where, when and who needs assistance, once again well done to those people on this Team

The Annual Swimming Carnival was again well attended and special thanks must go to the Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship and also to Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship for their assistance on this event.

Congratulations to all the youth members who participated in the carnival and also all the leaders and mums and dads for their help in making this once again such a success.

To all the Leaders of this District please accept my thanks for your continued good work that you have put in to maintain the level of scouting being achieved in this District.

I hope that you are getting back the satisfaction of seeing the young people under your guidance going ahead in their achievements.

Ron Brown
District Commissioner



PARRAMATTA

It has been a mixed year for Parramatta District, with some groups experiencing strong growth and others finding some serious speed bumps. Parramatta District's highlights for the year were the bumper Swimming Carnivals for Joeys, Cubs and Scouts held at Wentworthville Pool under revamped event and rules, GWS Jamborette, Gang Show and the Anzac Day Dawn Service and March where 180 youth members attended.

In the past 12 months, most Groups have run a successful family camp, attended State Rally, Scout Hike, Waratah, District Hikes, Canoe Courses, Caving Weekends, Abseiled, participated in Scouts in Action week, attended Sectional Fun Days, Leadership and Initiative Courses and if Scouts have spent many nights under canvas and lots of badge work for their Red Pioneer levels ready for AJ2016.

Murray Farm ran a successful program to start a Joey Mob which culminated in the investiture of 11 Joeys and 2 leaders in June. 12 months down the track, the Mob is still going well and is providing a feed into the cub pack. The Cub Pack attracted a new leader, who unfortunately resigned recently. The group is needing more support in the Cub pack, but has recently gained Sarah Worsley as a Group Leader in training, which will help give direction and management and allow the LIC to return focus to the Scout Troop.

Rydalmere gained a new Group Leader, Sue King and a new Chair, Debra Suffling. Debra was formerly the CSL. Between Debra, Jaci and Mel McAulay, the Rydalmere cub pack has thrived to almost 20 Cubs over the year. The Scout Troop is still all female and the hope is that the older Cubs going up to Scouts will restore balance to the Group. The small troop size was no barrier to these Scouts with the girls being very active and they have engaged in many outdoor activities including Canoeing, Hiking, and Jamborette and have participated with other troops in the district on wide games, comp camp and various inter district activities. Replacement of the roof at Rydalmere was a cause for celebration as it no longer rains inside the hall. Works are being prepared to undertake removal of asbestos in the coming year, followed by refurbishment of the kitchen and bathrooms to bring the hall up to modern standards. Two Scouts obtained their Blue Cord during the year.

Winston Hills have maintained their strong position in the District with good numbers in all sections and a solid Scouting program. They held a Family Camp at Glenrock, a Trivia Night, attended Anzac Ceremonies. Sienna Miller achieved her Green Cord and the ASM. Scouts and Venturers attended many outdoor activities including Caving and Abseiling. A number of Cubs completed the requirements for the Grey Wolf award. Scouts attended a 5 day camp at Grizzly's farm.

Wentworthville has struggled to remain a viable group for a number of years. The Scout section is the only section in the group and by June 2015, there will be only 3 remaining Scouts. Despite the poor numbers, Wentworthville Scouts have actively participated in all District events and done quite well in competition events. They held 2 "Try Scouts" market days at the hall during the year with little success in attracting new members. The District is currently working on a school based program to start up a Joey Mob and a Cub Pack at Wentworthville. This will help to feed numbers into the group. The program will run for 4-6 weeks and

every effort will be made to attract parents to take on leadership roles in the two new sections.

Ermington has had several major upheavals in the past 12 months. At the beginning of 2015, the group suffered several major blows with the cub leaders from the Spurway (Tuesday) pack resigning and as a consequence, the cubs were amalgamated into Blaxland pack. There was a deleterious result from this action with only 10 of the 42 cubs remaining in the



Despite the Group's issues, Scouting is still being done at an exceptional level with Elycia Higgins earning her Green Cord and the Australian Scout Medallion, and Rachel and Deborah Ewings being the 2nd and 3rd Venturers to earn the Queen's Scout Award. Congratulations to these 3 girls for striving to achieve your section top awards.

For the past 8 months, problems with Sydney Water over the lease on the hall and land have dominated Ermington's attention in 2015. Politicians at all three levels of government are assisting the group to try to resolve the situation. The group is maintaining a business as usual policy" whilst campaigning to Save Ermington Scout Hall.

Carlingford is a very strong, culturally diverse, community group. The sections work well together and the group is flourishing. Almost every month I attend Joey Promise Challenge Award and Grey Wolf Award presentations at this group. This year, the Venturer unit reopened after a hiatus awaiting the next group of Scouts to reach Venturer age. David and Theresa Mort, the original Venturer leaders moved to Buledelah and the Scout Leaders moved up to fill the vacancy. Michael Cook, the Group Leader, organised the very successful Anzac Dawn Service and March for the District and it ran with military precision! They also had a successful Garage Sale fundraiser.

Parramatta is another culturally diverse group that has gone from strength to strength in the past 12 months. The Group farewelled their Associate Leader, Adrienne Pearson and welcomed Lizzy Hayes back as an ACSL. A number of the inaugural group of Joeys presented their Promise Challenge work to achieve their Promise Challenge badge and moved up to Cubs. Cub Leader, Annette Douglass ticked over 25 years of service to the Group and was awarded the Silver Wattle. The Scouts took part in a Bushcare project and were some of the first to “legally” swim at Lake Parramatta. The Scout troop grew to 20 Scouts, the highest number since it was reformed in 2005.

North Rocks maintained strong numbers and a great group ethos over the past 12 months. They participated at all levels in most activities on offer in the Region and District and maintained creative and interesting programs for the youth. The Venturer unit numbers are very strong at 22 with several groups feeding in to this unit. Byron Davis earned his Green Cord and ASM. The Annual Presentation Meeting this year was a marvellous affair, with a huge number of parents and youth turning out to participate in the BINGO night. The meeting was held during an interval and the festivities resumed shortly after. It was great to see a huge turn up at an ARP!

Northmead has struggled to retain Cubs into the Scout troop with their all male Scout policy. The Cub Pack and Scout troop are still running with one qualified leader and a number of adult helpers. The group is trying to open a Joey mob and has asked for expressions of interest at the local school. Leonie Plummer is assisting with this process.

On the whole Parramatta District has remained a strong and vibrant district again in 2014-2015. Many Scouts are in the final stages of the Pioneer Badge and fundraising and preparations for the Jamboree are in full swing.

Many thanks to the District Leaders, Group Leaders, Sectional Leaders, Adult Helpers and Parent Committee Members of the District for providing excellent quality Scouting to the youth members.

Tracey Hansford
District Commissioner

PENRITH

This year has seen many changes in the Groups as we farewelled some of the long time Leaders, and welcomed New Leaders taking up their roles.

The District covers from Colyton to Lapstone, with 5 active Groups and a Rover Crew who is a great support to the whole District; it consists of three Joey Mobs, 5 Cub Packs, 5 Scout Troops, 2 Venturer Units

The District has been busy with many activities because of the dedication of the Leaders, who went and updated to the new qualifications in Bushwalking, Canoeing, Abseiling and Rock climbing etc. So many of these activities end up with more than just one Group participating as the closeness of the District, allows for all youth to go when even their own group can't always be in attendance.

During the Year many Youth achieved the Highest Award of their Section

Joey Promise Challenge

Benjamin Leary

Liam Spinks

Grey Wolf Award

Lucas Chicharro

Benjamin Howse

Amelia Leary

Alex Drysdale

Casey Riley

Australian Scout Medallion

Cooper Vanderjagt

Queen Scout Award

Hamish Edwards

Congratulations to all these youth members, and Thanks goes to all the Leaders and Supporters of the District for all the hard work they have put into providing our Youth the activities and opportunities to Grow and Learn.

The District also attend and participated in many Community events, including ANZAC day Marches, Community Fairs and Spring Festivals many of the competition events at the Penrith Regatta Centre, as well as Red Shield Appeal for the Salvation Army.

We look forward to a great year coming, especially with the Jamboree around the corner.

Tony Dent
Acting District Commissioner

SCOUT FELLOWSHIPS

BLUE MOUNTAINS

I am pleased to present my annual report of Fellowship activities. The year in review has been very active with a mix of enjoyable service and social activities performed by the Group. The activities concerned are:

Meetings:

- 1 AGM & 6 General meetings.

Service activities:

- Anzac Day March & commemoration at Glenbrook
- Cub Fun Day Bundilla
- Cooking for Cub Leadership Course Bundilla
- BBQ & registration at JOTA Glenbrook
- Programme, Hall decoration & sweet treats for Halloween at 1st Blackheath Cub Pack
- Holroyd District Food Drive for Parramatta Mission
- Holroyd District Swimming Carnival at Merrylands Pool – Record keeping & operations assistance

Social activities:

- Day Hike Braeside Walk Blackheath
- Cumberland Gang Show
- Christmas in July progressive dinner in member's homes
- Christmas Party BBQ

Membership:

Sadly our membership has been reduced by the loss of one member to a total of 10. Our quest to gain more members is ongoing.

I am pleased to report that the following members received Service Awards:

- James Goodwin 5 yrs
- Kylie Munro 5 yrs
- Leslie Tamsett 20 yrs
- Richard Mason 15 yrs

I congratulate all these members for their dedicated service in achieving their Service Awards.

The Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship has a group of enthusiastic, committed people who live the ideals of Scouting who are a pleasure to work with, as evidenced by

the programme presented above. I thank them all for their service and support throughout the year .

Once again I have been privileged to serve the Fellowship this year and look forward to serve as the Chair/Leader in Charge for the year ahead.

Richard Mason
Chairperson
Blue Mountains
Scout Fellowship



PARRAMATTA

2014-15 has been another great year with lots of service and social events to keep us busy.

Outside of Scouting we assisted at Clean-Up Australia, Red Shield Appeal, Heart Foundation and the Children's Festival at Belmore Park. We again collected items for Ronald McDonald House, which were delivered to them. Christmas saw us at Southern Cross Age Facility singing Christmas Carols and distributing gifts to the residents.

Within Scouting members have been involved with Gang Show; assisted at the Region Jamborette; conducted a Sensory Base at Agoonaree at Camp Kuring-gai; attended Badgoree in Canberra; run a Map and Compass Base at GWS Cub Baanya at Bundilla.; conducted Map & Compass Training for The Golden West Seonee and Mindari; assisted at GWS Adult Recognition Awards evening. Members have also assisted at 1st Balcombe Heights and 1st Westmead Cub Packs; designed and made Posters for Westmead Groups, 75th Celebration which we also attended.

Our cooking skills were in demand at GWS Cub Scout Leadership Course and GWS Palaver as well as for



Afternoon Tea at the Region ARP. We also served scones and tea for tired leaders at the Region Cub Fun Day.

We also attended Daniel Park's Scout Medallion presentation.

Our social activities included Ronald MacDonald House thank you morning tea and Children's Festival thank you dinner. We had a lazy outing to Blackheath travelling by train; we visited the Vivid Sydney Festival. We enjoyed a weekend away at Avoca, where one of our members (Betty Truscott) had a surprise 80th Birthday with never ending presents.

Congratulations to two of our members who received awards this year: Linda Apthorpe – Outstanding Service Award and Patricia Shaw – the Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award from Merrylands Rotary Club.

Thank you to all our members for a successful year as we look forward to another busy year ahead.

Stephen Shaw
Chairperson
Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

The membership of Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship has decreased slightly over the past twelve months to 20 members. We were sorry to lose Judi Barnes who passed away on 18 November 2014. Whilst most of our members are involved in support of Cumberland Gang Show, we continually seek to expand our membership base.

As well as participating in the 2014 season of Cumberland Gang Show, Fellowship members attended the Region Awards Dinner at Toongabbie in October and provided service to Bundilla Campsite in both September 2014 and January 2015. Planning has commenced to support the 50th Year Golden Anniversary of Cumberland Gang Show in 2019.

Our social program included a days outing to Palm Beach, Ettalong and Woy Woy in May; a very successful show recovery dinner at Blacktown Workers Club in July; an end of year dinner at Greystanes despite sudden heavy rain; a very pleasant dinner at the hall preceding our February business meeting; and a days outing to Woy Woy by train followed by a pleasant luncheon in March. Many of these activities included

numerous coffee breaks and sharing meals together. The outstanding success of our social program continues to be 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 two members on the Executive of the Branch Scout Fellowship Committee who will retire at the Branch Scout Fellowship AGM in May. Some members provided support to the Region Jamborette and to Dragon Skin Holroyd District members participated in the Holroyd Australia Day Celebrations and Holroyd Festivities at Holroyd Gardens.



Adrian Wilson was deservedly recognised in the 2014 World Scout Day Awards with the Outstanding Service Award.

My special thanks to Steve Munro who stood down from his Treasurer position in May following his initial five years as Vice President followed by four years as Treasurer. Special thanks also to my fellow members of the executive: Secretary Jeanie Wood, Treasurer Evelyn Wilson, Vice President Rob Burke and Activities Coordinator Adrian Wilson. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and have certainly ensured the great success of the past twelve months. I look forward to our Fellowship enjoying another exciting year in 2015-2016.

Lyall Wood
Chairperson
Cumberland Gang Show 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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