



Scouts Australia, NSW Greater Western Sydney Region 69th Annual Report 2016



Today's



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AUSTRALIA

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Greater Western Sydney Region Team 2015-2016

REGION PRESIDENT	----- Alan Overton AM / Ross Grove
REGION CHAIRPERSON	----- Debbie Howlett
REGION TREASURER	----- Paul Thompson
REGION COMMISSIONER	----- Neville Henderson OAM
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	----- David Stopps
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	----- Tony Dent
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
RC ACTIVITIES	----- Mark Fell
RC ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT	----- Kathy Cuneo
RC ADULTS IN SCOUTING	----- Cassie Rec
RC COMMUNICATIONS & PR	----- Matt Thompson
RC INTERNATIONAL	----- Peter Nickl

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	----- Steve Wallace

Region Patrons

Julie Owens MP
Federal Member for Parramatta

Ray Williams MP
State Member for Castle Hill

Louise Markus MP
Federal Member for Macquarie

CONTENTS

Minutes from 2015 Annual General Meeting	..... 4
Region Commissioner	..... 6
Region Chairperson	..... 7
Region Financial Report	..... 8
Region Office	..... 9
Bundilla Scout Camp	..... 9
Section Reports	..... 10
Joey Scouts	..... 10
Cub Scouts	..... 12
Scouts	..... 15
Venturer Scouts	..... 15
Rovers	..... 18
2015 Adult Recognition Awards	..... 19
Adult Training & Development Report	..... 21
Communications & PR Report	..... 22
International Report	..... 22
Strategy Report	..... 23
Activities Report	..... 24
Bushwalking	..... 26
Caving	..... 26
Cumberland Gang Show	..... 27
Cirque du Scout	..... 27
District Reports	..... 28
Blacktown	..... 28
Blue Mountains	..... 28
Hawkesbury	..... 29
Hills South	..... 31
Holroyd	..... 33
Parramatta	..... 33
Penrith City	..... 34
Scout Fellowships Reports	..... 35
Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship	..... 35
Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship	..... 35
Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship	.... 36
Hawkesbury Black Horse Scout Fellowship	... 36
Alan Clifford Overton AM	..... 37



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 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Minutes of the 68th Annual Report Presentation of the Region Scout Council held at Bundilla Scout Camp on Sunday 21st June, 2015 commencing at 2.30pm.

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

APOLOGIES: Read by Kathy Cuneo, Region Commissioner Adult Training & Development, and others as per attendance book.

WELCOME: Mr Alan Overton welcomed all those present.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 67th Annual General Meeting of the Region Council held on Sunday, 15th June, 2014 were circulated in the Annual Report and adopted.

MOVED: Neville Henderson SECONDED: David Twist

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. Lyall Wood AM RFD, Chairman Scouts NSW Board

SECONDED the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statement

Mrs Debbie Howlett, Chair GWS Region Executive

ADDRESS BY:

Ray Williams MP – Member for Castle Hill and Region Patron

Councillor Scott Lloyd – Lord Mayor Parramatta City Council

Councillor Ross Grove – Representing Holroyd City Council

3. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

REGION PRESIDENT	Mr Alan Overton AM	TRUSTEES	The Region Commissioner
REGION CHAIRMAN	Mrs Debbie Howlett		Mr Peter Stieme
REGION TREASURER	Mr Paul Thompson		Mr Peter Nickl

4. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF REGION EXECUTIVE

Mrs Jan Playford	Ms Hannah Woodrow Park	Mr Peter Stieme	Mr Michael Majoor
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 REGION COMMISSIONER, GWS
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
MS HANNAH WOODROW CLARK	REGION ROVER COUNCIL CHAIR
MRS PATRICIA SHAW	COMMITTEE MEMBER
MRS PAMELA GARSKE	MINUTES TAKER

DELEGATES TO NSW STATE COUNCIL

THE REGION COMMISSIONER
 THE REGION PRESIDENT
 THE REGION CHAIRMAN
 MR PETER STIEME
 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
DR 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: Kathy Cuneo **SECONDED:** Tony Dent

9. **ADDRESS BY** Mr Doug Menzies, NSW Chief Commissioner
ADDRESS BY Dr Karina Wardle, Cumberland Gang Show
ADDRESS BY Ms Rachel Camilleri, Cumberland Gang Show

Mr. Alan Overton thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 4.00 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 69th annual report of Greater Western Sydney Region. This is my 7th report as your Region Commissioner.

Our region consists of 44 Scout Groups, 5 Scout Fellowships and 9 Rover Crews. The Region operates with 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.

Congratulations to Peter Nickl, Region Commissioner International, who became a Life Councilor of the Branch Council at the 2015 State AGM. It was a great recognition for over 50 years of service to scouting not only in GWS but also on the international scene.



During the year I appointed Tony Dent as the Deputy Region Commissioner (mainly dealing with membership and group matters) and Steven Wallace is in the process of taking over the reins as District Commissioner for Penrith District from Tony. I also appointed Geoff Henderson as the Region Leader Strategy and he is responsible for implementing and monitoring our Region Strategy Plan. Tracey Stopps took over the vacant District Scout Leader, Hills South District and she has hit the ground running.

In the next twelve months I will be appointing a Region Leader Adults in Scouting and formalizing the role of Region Leader Special Needs.

I mentioned last year that a number of leaders from Holroyd District had set up a development team aimed at increasing youth numbers in the district

and supporting groups with diminished numbers. It is pleasing to note that this committee is still working towards their aims.

Once again we had a successful Adult Recognition Awards Presentation at our new venue at Wentworthville Leagues Club in October with 180 people in attendance to see their friends, colleagues and peers recognized for their service to scouting. Thanks to Chief Commissioner Doug Menzies, Region President Alan Overton AM and our Region Chair Debbie Howlett, for assisting with the presentation of the awards. We had 63 leaders and supporters receive awards in 2015. We have again booked the venue for our 2016 Awards Dinner on 13 October 2016.



A day elective was held in October 2015 at Bundilla on Mental Health and Youth Suicide. We had some professional speakers on the day and this was well received by those in attendance.

Our Region Leader Strategy, Geoff Henderson hosted a successful meeting in March 2016 to discuss and formulate a Region Strategy Plan for three years. We had almost 60 leaders and supporters attend to have their say in where we wish to head for the period to the end of 2018.

Unfortunately for GWS Region we lost the services of our Region President, Alan Overton, due to illness when he resigned after twenty two years in the role. I will miss my regular chats with Alan and I have assured him that if and when he is able to return there will be a role for him at Region. Welcome aboard to Ross Grove who has agreed to fill the vacancy left by Alan's resignation and I look forward to working with him 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, our Region Scribe Pam Garske who keeps a record of our meetings and our various delegates who regularly attend the Region Executive each month. It is also a pleasure to work with Debbie

Howlett our Region Chair who keeps our monthly meetings on track and is keen to keep an eye on the business of Region.

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, keeping our information up to date 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 six 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. They took over the administration for The Golden West Region during the year and I know the groups in that region are very happy with their service. We couldn’t do without them as part of our team. Unfortunately Maggi decided to move on to a new employer and we wish her all the best for the future.

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

2015, flew by in respect to my new role as GWS Region Chairperson. The last year has brought forth many challenges to our Region and Scouting as a whole. As an organisation we have to learn to embrace ways to remain relevant to the youth of today and this has been the focus of our Region, where we prepared over the last 12 months for many of the youth members and adult leaders to attend AJ2016 at Cataract in January, again our Region was well represented at all levels. Whilst this is an important milestone in Scouting, it is one where we must keep the momentum going and the passion burning. We are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated leaders in our Region, but of course to achieve is always a united effort and this is complemented by Group Committees who are many times the “quiet achievers”. I salute you all and ask that we keep a strategic focus on the “big picture” for 2016 in recruitment and retention of scout members.



On a personal note, I would like to thank the Region Executive, a dedicated group of people and to pass on my wishes to outgoing Region President Alan Overton, who unfortunately has had to retire due to ill health. Alan has been a stalwart of the GWS Region and regularly regaled us of his Scouting stories, which we will miss. I welcome our new President Ross Grove, who brings a whole new skill and knowledge set to our Executive. Of course, our Region wouldn’t function without our Region Commissioner Neville and Deputies David and newcomer Tony, again thanks.

2016 will see transformational changes in Scouting, so let’s undertake the following:

“One Scout member can make a difference, but together we can ROCK the world or at least GWS!!!”

Yours in Scouting

Debbie Howlett
Region Chairperson

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 2016

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	Administration		
	<i>Income</i>		
3,123	Saleable Items Income	1,479	2,400
450	Donation	450	-
120	Sundry Income	16	-
<u>3,693</u>		<u>1,945</u>	<u>2,400</u>
	<i>Expenditure</i>		
51,599	Salaries and On Costs	58,611	50,928
2,538	Awards, Badges & Scarves	2,885	3,500
25	Computer Expenses	608	240
239	Depreciation	143	240
2,476	Equipment Rental	2,476	2,484
362	Meeting/Award Dinner Expenses, net of receipts	(612)	1,700
1,639	Postage	2,006	1,440
970	Printing & Stationery	1,698	1,440
-	Repairs & Maintenance	15	1,200
220	Saleable Items Cost	74	240
145	Security of Premises	-	-
2,797	Telephone	2,141	3,000
903	Sundry Expense	126	370
<u>63,913</u>		<u>70,171</u>	<u>66,782</u>
<u>(60,221)</u>	Net Administration Cost	<u>(68,226)</u>	<u>(64,382)</u>
<u>(1,702)</u>	Development & Promotion	<u>(726)</u>	<u>(2,020)</u>
	Camps & Activity Centres		
<u>(2,765)</u>	Bundilla	<u>(2,408)</u>	<u>(24,516)</u>
<u>(2,765)</u>		<u>(2,408)</u>	<u>(24,516)</u>
	Scouting Activities		
(1,455)	RC Section - Joeys	(14)	274
2,982	RC Section - Cubs	1,202	842
3,084	RC Section - Scouts	8,359	6,380
2,612	RC Section - Venturers	1,975	1,190
5,582	RC Section - Rovers	(308)	(304)
(529)	RC Section - Activities	9,669	2,500
(1,514)	RC Section - Others	(2,526)	(1,501)
(288)	International Section	(266)	(304)
6,865	Gang Show	3,755	13,412
(203)	Districts	(1,254)	436
<u>17,135</u>		<u>20,592</u>	<u>22,925</u>
<u>1,876</u>	Leader Training	<u>503</u>	<u>5,904</u>
<u>2,460</u>	Property	<u>1,637</u>	<u>12,806</u>
<u>(43,217)</u>	Net Region Cost of Operation	<u>(48,628)</u>	<u>(49,283)</u>

Paul Thompson
Region Treasurer

REGION OFFICE

We have now completed six years of service in the office and even though we feel on occasions that we are overworked we really enjoy the challenges we face.

During the year we took over the administration of the office work for The Golden West Region and this seems to be working particularly well.

In the past 12 months we have assisted with the Region Adult Recognition Awards Presentation Dinner, assisted with registrations for the Australian Jamboree, processed 86 nomination for the 2016 Adult Recognition Awards, completed received and verified the applications for the Joey Fun Day and the Cub Fun Day and around 1000 applications for the Region Jamborette. These special events were in addition to processing the many normal region activities we handle during the course of our normal day. Thanks to Matt Thompson for the EMS registration system which is making the applications much easier to process.

The work load in processing membership forms 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 and members of the region team 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 make 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.

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

PS: Unfortunately Maggi decided to pursue another avenue of employment and left the office at the end of May.

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, 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 get many more community groups than scouting groups even though our scouting fee is far lower than many other comparable camp sites.

We are looking at having the old grey boy's shower block outside the Peter Waite Room converted into two disabled toilets and are looking to arrange finances to complete this project in the current Scouting year.

For the past two years we have attempted to 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.

We have had a small State Government Grant which allowed us to upgrade some of our lighting and other projects and we look forward to more support in the coming twelve months.

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 Bundilla Scout Camp in the future.

David & Tracey Stopps
Camp Caretakers



SECTION REPORTS

JOEY SCOUTS

What a year it's been for Joey Scouts, not just in GWS, but right across Australia. We had our 25 year celebrations, A Heroes & Villains Joey Fun Day, A Scouting For Joeys Woonona, Various mob Holidays, Treks on top of some fantastic weekly programs.

Joey Scouts is a highly transient Section. Of the 208 Joeys we started with in 2014, 86 went up to cubs, 8 transferred to other regions, 55 resigned and 59 of them remain. Meanwhile we have gained another 134 new Joeys which now makes a total of 193.

Leadership in the Joey Section is also transient with many transferring up to cubs following their children. We started with 73 Joey Leaders in 2015 and now have 66.

I would also like to congratulate the following Joey leaders on completing their advanced training and achieving their Wood Badge. Angus Boxall, Chris Cardona, Karen Cardona, Alice Gravina, Lauren Massie, Zoe Stephens, Paula Mitchell, and Kasey Staples.

The first event of the year was the Heroes and Villains Joey Fun Day. 147 Joeys had an awesome day. For the first time we had bases from Cumberland Gang Show and the Cirque Du Scout Activity teams. We also had lunch donated by Outback Steakhouse (THANK YOU). Again the hit was definitely the Flying Fox, followed closely by all the other bases. Our region is blessed with some very creative leaders who always come up with the goods. THANK YOU! It wasn't all smooth sailing, a particular RC Joeys forgot the Tea & Coffee. No that will NOT happen again.

Joeys also took part in this year's Cumberland Gang Show's "Reach for the Stars" as part of the Comet Cast. They performed in 4 shows and were limited to the first half of the show. Thank you to the CGS Comet Commanders Narelle Sauerbier, Rebecca Shaw and David Shaw for taking them under your wings and

introducing them to the wonders of theatre and the performing arts.

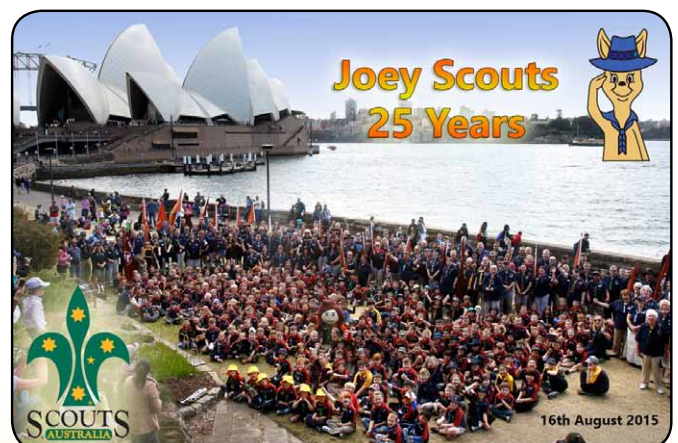
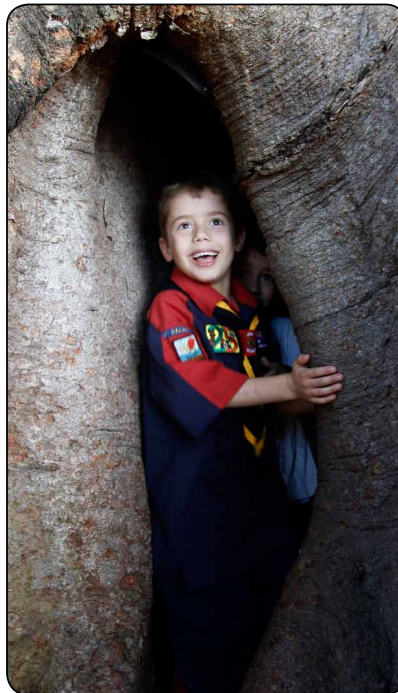
2015 marked the 25th anniversary for Joeys Scouts in Australia. Joeys was launched with great fanfare in Darling Harbour on 1st July 1990 with the cutting of the birthday cake by Ben from 1st Penrith Scout Group. Celebrations this year included birthday parties in Districts, at Joey Mobs and a Fantastic gathering at Scout Place Sydney with a march past Circular Quay, The Sydney Opera House and a Big Picnic (BP) in the Domain. This was attended by most Joey mobs in GWS

and many others from across the Sydney Metropolitan areas. All Joeys were also awarded a special 25 Year badge which they could wear on their uniform.

In September we held what I believe was our first "Woonona" (Region Joey Mob Holiday) at Castle Mountain near Wisemans Ferry. We had 51 Joey Scouts and 72 leader/helpers. The Woonona started off with 6 fun activity bases, including Joey Geocaching, flying fox, climbing wall, Gang Show and others. On the Sunday we trekked up to the top of Castle Mountain to see the spectacular views across the camp site, Webs Creek and Dharug National Park.

This year we welcomed our new State Commissioner Joey Scouts (SCJS) Jill Heath. Jill is from the North West

Region and is really excited about her role and eager to support the regions, the leaders and the Joeys! This means we are celebrating the great work by our outgoing SCJS Lyn Mann who spent 10 years in the role, Lyn is a great champion for Joey Scouts and will continue with training and Special Projects at a State





level. A special thank you Lyn, for all your guidance and support throughout the years. You made a difference and your special focus on not limiting anyone’s creativity really helped Joeys with a great sense of adventure and wonder.

I would like say a special thank you to my District Joey Leaders Leonie Plummer and Valerie Lockman who have been very active about their districts in supporting district events including camp fires and mob holidays. A Special mention to Leonie Plummer and Kathy Cuneo who have been helping to start up a new Joey Mob at 2nd Northmead and 1st Hawkesbury

I would also like to say thank you to the GWS Region Council and Executive. Behind the scenes they have been very supportive of the Joey Section. Special mention to Matt Thompson for all his time, effort and professionalism in developing the online event management system. This system was used for the Joey Fun Day and Woonona. It reduced a fair bit of administration and helped maintain accurate records for these activities. I look forward to your future developments. It should be recognised that this system isn’t just web pages and code, it included extensive consultation with all parties involved, from the leaders, event organisers, region office assistants and the region executive. BRAVO.

We should all extend a thank you to our Region Office staff, whilst handling a myriad of matters from everywhere, they have always been professional in every dealing I have had with them. Especially during those clashes between Jamborette early bird closing dates and Joey Fun days. THANK YOU!

Finally a special thank you to all our Joey Leaders and supporters. Your tireless effort week in and week out is what makes all this work. I admire all the creativity and enthusiasm I see around our Joey Mobs. BRAVO!

Yours in Scouting

Brian Zarth (Magpie)
Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)



Promise Challenge 2014-2015

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1st Balcombe Heights | 1st Hazelbrook |
| -- Maxwell Schwalbe | -- Caeden Drake |
| -- Kailash Sureshkumar | -- Koby Dulac-Daley |
| -- Raphaela Woodford | 1st Murray Farm |
| -- Liam Greene | -- Lachlan Leong |
| -- Patrick Dooley | 1st North Rocks |
| -- Luke Uidam | -- Hei Chow |
| 1st Springwood | -- Cerys Powell |
| -- Cohen Sanders | -- Max Ryan |
| 1st Carlingford | -- Evan Holman |
| -- Jason Ong | 1st Oakville |
| -- Jerald Yu | -- Andrew Mitchell |
| -- Ananta Herman | -- Liam Meddens |
| -- Jordan Lo | -- Zoe Dun |
| -- Damien Yap | -- Zoe Allen |
| -- Edward Nguyen | -- Tahlia Ransley |
| -- Reuben Matthews | -- Owen McDonald |
| -- Rishi Mayur | 1st Parramatta |
| -- Dylan Skinner | -- Gina Chen |
| -- Indunil Mendis | 1st Quakers Hill |
| 1st Ermington | Doonside |
| -- Sarah Ryan | -- Jasmine Freeman |
| 1st Erskine Park | 1st Winston Hills |
| -- Bailey Murray | -- Angus Minty |
| -- Riordan Pearce | -- Jandiga Holmes |
| 1st Greystanes | -- Charlotte Stockford |
| -- Madeleine Phillips | |



CUB SCOUTS

Cub Day at the Jamborette on the June long weekend was a huge success with 330 cubs, 128 leaders and numerous parents and siblings taking part in the many activities on offer. Thanks to Matt Thompson for the new EMS, which most leaders managed pretty well and thanks to Robin Garrett and his team for allowing the Cub Scouts to participate in this huge event.

It was great to see three of my hard working Seeonee Team Leaders among the list of names for the **Adult Recognition Awards for Good Service on August 1**: Melissa Harding DLCS Blue Mts and Penrith, Silver Wattle John Aquilina CSL 1st Glossodia/Seeonee Leader, Meritorious Service Award and Gabie Thompson DLCS Hills Sth District, Meritorious Service Award.

36 leaders enjoyed **Palanee 'Approaching our Cub Scout Centenary...'** on August 7. Jeff Hook did a brilliant job of taking us through the history of Cub Scouting, our traditions and ceremonies. Carol Cope led our indoor campfire and took us on a tour of Gilwell Park and Shirley Robinson organised a lovely supper to finish off the night.

On Saturday 5th September, 45 Cubs attended the **Cub Scout Leadership Course**. It was a really good day with perfect weather and a very well behaved bunch of Cub Scouts. We had a number of CSLs helping the team, who had never been to a CS Leadership course before; they worked hard and thoroughly enjoyed the day. We were all amazed by the number of intelligent questions and answers that the Cubs came up with during the sessions! Thank you also to the team from Blue Mts Fellowship for the great job they did with catering, very much appreciated.

Cub Baanya was held at Bundilla on the **14th & 15th 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.

In **2015 National** launched a competition for Cub Scouts to **design a badge for the 2016 celebration of the Centenary of Cub Scouts**. Many entries were received but the overall winning badge design was submitted by Peter Dixon from the Cressy Cub



Scout Pack, Tasmania. This is the badge that all CSLs and Cub Scouts are proudly wearing until the end of the year. The design is also available in a woggle that can be worn by all sections of Scouting to pay tribute to this very special year.

GWSR was fortunate that the design submitted by **Kaitlyn Brush** from **1st Winston Hills Cub Pack**, caught the eye of the State Commissioner Cub Scouts, Tricia Shaw and she used the design to create the thousands of postcards that were distributed to every Cub Pack and many older Joey Scouts in NSW, to invite them to the 6th NSW Cuboree at Cataract from 3rd to 7th January 2017. I had the privilege of presenting Kaitlyn with a special framed Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of Tricia.

Hundreds of leaders, youth members, parents and siblings from GWS visited **AJ2016 at Cataract Scout Park on January 9 for Super Saturday**, as part of the 10,000 plus invasion of the site! It was a fantastic day - warm and dry after the torrential rain the Scouts had experienced previously. The Cubs had a great time spending their Jam Dollars for Market Day and participating in all the activities on offer.

On March 5, 49 cubs attended the first Cub Scout Leadership Course for 2016. Once again a great success; mainly due to the hard work of the Region Seeonee Team, volunteer CSL helpers and Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship for their excellent catering.

On March 11, 37 Cub Scout Leaders attended the **'CSLs Celebrate a Century of Cubbing'** at Bundilla. Jeff Hook ran an excellent Programme in the original format devised by Baden Powell way back in 1916 and which is still just as valid today. The evening also afforded a perfect opportunity for networking over a delicious supper.

Over 300 Cub Scouts, their Leaders and Youth Helpers participated in the **Cub Scout Birthday Bash** at Bundilla on **May 1**. After a stormy start, the day turned out to

be warm and dry and everyone enjoyed the party - thanks to the hard work of the Region Seeonee Team, my family, David Shaw (Cumberland Gang Show), State Rail, Lisa Dent and the Region First Aid Team and David and Tracey Stopps and their family. Thanks also to RC Neville Henderson, for his generous support and for spending the day with us.

The annual **Youth Helpers Course** was held on **May 14** for sixteen 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. One Venturer from Sydney North had already been working with a special needs Scout Troop for the past 2½ years – what a huge commitment from one so young! It would be wonderful to see every Pack in our 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’. Many thanks to Melissa Harding who helped run the course; to Tracey Stopps who ran sessions for the Scout section helpers and Aaron Wardle for taking time out of his busy schedule to thank the Venturers for their commitment to help other sections and to offer his support.

Gabie Thompson, Michelle McLean and I ran a base for the **Joey Scout Fun Day** on **May 15**. Congratulations to Brian Zarth RCJS and his Team for a well organised event and thanks for providing a very tasty lunch for all of us! It was a good opportunity for us to promote Cuboree to the older Joey Scouts.

Congratulations to all forty 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.

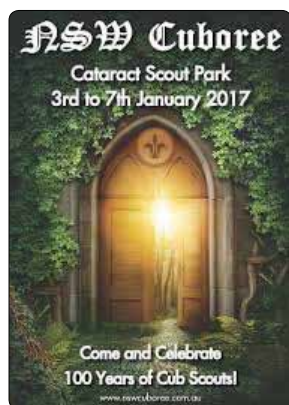
Region Seeonee Team:

- Blacktown District - **Michelle McLean**
CSL 1st North Mt Druitt/Seeonee Leader
- Blue Mountains / Penrith City District - **Melissa Harding** DLCS
- Hawkesbury District - **John Aquilina**
CSL 1st Glossodia and DLCS
- Hills South District - **Gabie Thompson** DLCS
- Holroyd District - **Jeff Hook**
CSL 1st Westmead/Seeonee Leader
- Parramatta District - **Melissa McAulay**
CSL 1st Rydalmere/Seeonee Leader
- Region Advisor - **Shirley Robinson**



Unfortunately Virginia Klomp CSL 1st Ermington and Seeonee Leader resigned due to the pressure of work and family. Virginia had been in the combined role for three years. We thank her for all the hard work she put into Parramatta District and Cuboree and wish her well for the future. We were indeed fortunate to have Melissa McAulay volunteer to take on the role and





thank her for doing so. 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.

As you can see, we have been kept busy during our Centenary year, but there are still many events to organise and attend before we end our celebrations with the NSW State Cuboree!

Coming Events:

- State Centenary Wide Game and Picnic in Sydney, July 31
- CS Leadership Course August 13
- Shakedown Camp September 10 & 11@ Bundilla Scout Camp
- Shakedown Camp September 17 & 18 @ Bundilla Scout Camp
- 6th NSW Cuboree 3rd to 7th Jan 2017 @ Cataract Scout Park

In closing I would like to thank Kim Harris and Maggi Roynon in our Region Office for all their hard work, continued support and friendship. It was sad to see Maggi leave for "greener pastures", but we wish her happiness and success in her new role, she will be greatly missed.

A huge thank you; to David Stopps Deputy Region Commissioner for his friendly advice and support; to Bundilla's Caretakers, David and Tracey Stopps and their family for all their invaluable assistance with any events the Cub section hold at Bundilla; to Tricia Shaw, State Commissioner Cub Scouts, for cooking on Leadership Courses and always visiting our special events; to my husband Paul Thompson, who is always on hand to support me in my role and use his wood working skills to create anything I need; to my family who are always there for me and help out in a myriad of different ways and finally to our Region Commissioner Neville Henderson for all his support and encouragement, the generous use of Bundilla for our meetings and activities and for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit the Cub Scouts and their Leaders at Region events.

Anne Thompson (Wontoffla)
Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts)



**Grey Wolf Awards
2015-2016**

2nd Baulkham Hills
Kera Merrington

1st Balcombe Heights
Luke Kahane

1st Blaxland
Thomas Lukin
Aemon Marshall
Daniel Oakey
Angel Poi
Declan Vane
Cecelia Hill

1st Carlingford
Dylan Chung
Jessica Andrews
Emily Thatcher
Ryan Cusack
Lachlan Cooper

1st Ermington
Kieran Bragg

1st Erskine Park
Jake Spinks
Mitchell Boulton

1st Hawkesbury
Mikhael Andonian

1st Hazelbrook
Paris Laurendet
Solomon Hammond
Ryan Wassell

1st Kellyville
Scott Drury
Daniel Peterson
Sharmaine Jagers
Shannon Battam
Shari Ann Ellis

1st Kings Langley
Jemma Ryan
Chantelle Mackintosh

2nd Kings Langley
Caleb Woods

1st/2nd Merrylands
Tyler Caine

1st North Mt Druit
Blake Wood

1st North Rocks
Owen Mitchell

1st Oakville
Adam Davis
Lachlan Edwards

1st Riverstone
Eivan Quirds
Max Coundrelis

1st Rydalmere
James Loebel
Hamish McAulay
Jack McShane
Kayla Mills

1st South Penrith
Taydim Guy



SCOUTS



The Australian Jamboree in January was a great success in spite of all the rain we received in the first few days. The rain made it particularly challenging to keep or get things dry but the Troops managed well, thanks to the skill and patience of our leaders and youth members. We had 10 Troops with 348 Scouts,

21 Venturers and 153 adults attend from our Region.

Our “Fantasy” Jamborette for 2015 was also very successful including the visit of Cub Scouts and Leaders on the Sunday swelling the ranks enormously. We tried out the new Region Event Management System (EMS) which allowed leaders to record basic registration information for their Troops. Once submitted the system provided an invoice for payment of each batch submitted and the option of payment methods including credit card. One of the biggest concerns was the number of incomplete E1’s where parents did not include membership numbers, Medicare numbers, emergency contact information and in some cases correct permissions. All in all we had 674 Scouts and 407 others including Venturers and adults attend. We had quite a number of out of Region Scouts and leaders attend who liked the event and indicated they would return.

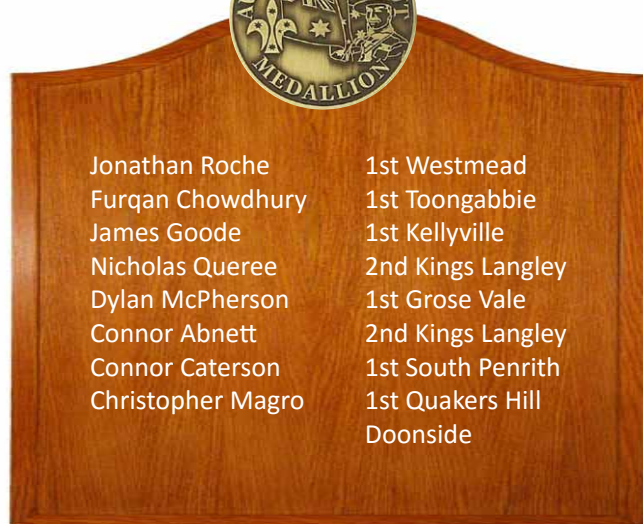


Our “Scouts in the Spotlight” Jamborette 2016 preparations are proceeding well and it looks like we will have a good turnout again this year, in spite of it being a post Jamboree year. We are trying for the first time an electronic E1 called an E-Permission system. Parents receive an email, entered by the leaders, from the system with a unique link and pass code to log in and complete all the relevant details on a typical E1. All required information has to be entered before the system will allow them to electronically “sign” the permission. Once this is done it can be printed and submitted with the rest of the paperwork. So far the system is working fairly well with very little hiccups or complaints.



During the year, GWSR Scouts and Leaders took part in a number of activities both in and outside our Region: Scout Hike in the Belanglo State Forest in May and State Rally at Glenfield in August. Congratulations to 1st Ermington “Kungfu Mangos” and 2nd Baulkham Hills “Baulko Avengers” Patrols for taking out a Silver Medallion in Scout Hike overall. We had 24 Patrols from our Region participate.

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. Recipients of the ASM are:



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.

Yours in Scouting

Robin 'Batman' Garrett
Region Commissioner (Scouts)



VENTURER SCOUTS

The past year in the Venturer Scout section has seen many highlights and many records achieved throughout the Region.

1st South Penrith, 1st Hazelbrook and 1st Dural each reopened their Units in 2015 contributing to the growth in membership which now sees our Venturer Scout population reaching record numbers and having the highest average Unit membership of any Region in NSW.

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



Dragon Skin 2015 saw the largest attendance in more than a decade.

I would especially like to mention the huge number of adult leaders from GWS that helped on activities and with the BOOTS team.

Our highest scoring teams in the Region are listed below:

- The Richards, 1st North Rocks (61st = 651 pts)
- Wandering Wizards, 1st Westmead (71st = 636 pts)
- Mountains, 1st Carlingford (71st = 636 pts)
- Danny Doritos, 1st Kings Langley (77th = 628 pts)

In June, a record number of more than 160 Venturer Scouts from the Region volunteered at the 2015 Jamborette with some excellent bases being organised for the event. Everyone was rewarded with some great

weather over the weekend and warmer than usual conditions making the event even more enjoyable.

The Cub Day at Jamborette was a huge highlight with such a great opportunity to promote Venturers to our younger sections. The Sunday night rock climbing activity also ran very well and the positive interaction with the Scouts was very good to see.

Congratulations to 1st Winston Hills on their Mouse Trap activity which was voted by the Patrol Leaders as the best Venturer Scout base. Well done as well to The Wizards Gauntlet (1st Kellyville), Potter World (1st Oakville) and A Damsel in Distress (1st Castle Hill) which were all ranked highly popular.

The 23rd World Scout Jamboree was held in July 2015. As Australian Contingent Leader, it was a privilege to lead the largest ever Australian Contingent of 331 participants including 14 youth members and 7 adult leaders from our own Region.



Australia joined over 33,000 Scouts from around the world at the Jamboree in Japan. Seeing every Australian Scout form such strong friendships in only a matter of weeks, and to see each participant fully embrace the Japanese culture with great respect and maturity proved themselves as great ambassadors for Australia.

The Australian Contingent enjoyed a very extensive tour of Japan including the thrill of white water rafting, a night in a traditional Buddhist temple, a tour of the Imperial Palace, and the excitement of Universal Studios.



A particular focus during the Jamboree was a visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in recognition of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. Our youth members also enjoyed the opportunity for some Home Hospitality with host families on the island of Shikoku.



The World Scout Jamboree is a unique experience that brings Scouts from all corners of the globe together in a great sharing of cultures and values that proves the world can indeed live together in peace. The next event is in North America in 2019.

Lachlan Smith from 2nd Baulkham Hills and Luke Vella from 1st Kings Langley were selected to attend the 2015 Mawson Scholarship in Leadership and represented the Region with great distinction. Luke Vella has since been appointed as the Assistant Contingent Leader to the next World Scout Moot in Iceland in 2017. BRAVOOO!



Rat Skin 2015 was held in the Mullions Range State Forest near Orange. Some of our Units attended the event running activity bases they had designed. Several leaders also joined the competition with our highest scoring team from the Region reaching third place.



Waratah 2015: Revenge of the Wraith was held in the Vulcan State Forest in November. Our 10th anniversary event saw our highest ever attendance from Units across the Region and throughout NSW with 211 competitors and more than 70 supporting adults.



Congratulations to “The Last Minute Applicants” from Normanhurst on winning the event. The highest scoring team from GWS Region in third place were the “Wraith Busters” from 1st Kings Langley. Line honours were awarded to “Ghost Assassins” from 1st Blaxland.

26 Venturer Scouts and 2 Adult Leaders from the Region attended the 13th New Zealand Venture in January. All accounts suggest the participants had a hugely enjoyable experience.



21 Venturer Scouts and 9 Adult Leaders also attended the 24th Australian Jamboree at Cataract Scout Park. These volunteers worked in a range of roles including Circus, Endurance, Media, Adventurous Activities and Entertainment. Coping with every extreme from torrential rain to blistering heat, they all represented the Region well and provided some quality activities for the participating Scouts. Many of the Venturer Scouts also enjoyed a day off at Jamberoo on Super Saturday which was well deserved.



Our Region Social Camp in February was a huge success with excellent weather on the beach at Glenrock. Our Surf Carnival was a popular feature in the program and saw a close competition. The winners were:

- Beach Sprint = Darius Cutts, 1st Westmead
- Beach Relay = 1st Westmead
- Swim Race = Malachi Henderson, 1st Blaxland
- Swim Relay = 1st Carlingford
- Beach Flags = Aidan Hall, 1st Westmead

With the changing dates of Easter, we were lucky to have two Dragon Skin events within the past twelve months.

Our Region was once again very well represented with a large number of both Venturer Scouts and adult leaders attending the event. Volunteers working on the



BOOTS team, first aid and activity bases were essential to making this event a success and I know that everyone had an enjoyable experience.

Dragon Skin 2016 saw an improved result in the competition with our highest scoring teams in the Region listed below:

- Power Rangers, 1st Kings Langley (35th = 733 pts)
- Sparkle Friends, 1st/2nd Blacktown (45th = 704 pts)
- Tradie Ninjas, 1st/2nd Blacktown (70th = 633 pts)
- Rainbow Sporks of Narnia, 1st Dural (73rd = 628pts)

Venturer Scouts are also preparing for other major events this year including two youth members attending the Kandersteg International Scout Centre as part of the 2016 Australian Contingent and another two members preparing for the 7th International Finnjamboree.

I would like to express my appreciation to my team that do such a great job in helping to manage the Region. Matt Vella, Judy Barr, Steve Wallace, Shaun Lesslie and Brian Nelson 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

Rovers the Greater Western Sydney Region have enjoyed a large year of success through different activities ranging from a long list of fun outings to the several instances of service that our rovers have gone above and beyond to do their absolute best. Every rover should be proud of his or her achievements in the last year.

Rovers have enjoyed a large range of activities including a large number of moots, including the successful Marvel Moot run by 1st Blaxland 'Kalagadoo' Rover Crew. I myself attended and took part in the fun. Aside from this we have taken part in a fair amount of service activities such as Dragon Skin, Jamborette. Not to mention the large amount of Rover support given to the 2016 Australian Jamboree with rovers running the much loved circus base.

As a region we have maintained stable numbers and have enjoyed a large amount of Intercrew activities with one another from camps to stand alone nights, to events such as KLs Regressive Formal McDonalds dinner and we look forward to many new and exciting activities in the future such as 'The Moot', which is our national moot as well as getting ready for World Scout Moot in Iceland next year.

This year I am excited to work as chair for GWS and am proud to represent such a region as well as have a team of hard working Rover council executive members that are so determined to do their best. We each have our separate goals for the year with an emphasis on Venturers moving up as well as a higher Rover presence in the community.

I look forward to an exciting year of Roving.

Michael 'Grizzly' Barton
Region Rover Council Chairman 2016-17



2015 ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS



NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD – for Eminent Achievement and Meritorious Service

NICHOLAS, Colin Geoffrey ----- Honorary Commissioner (Region), Greater Western Sydney Region



SILVER KOALA – for Distinguished Service

FUTCHER-HALL, Aafke Carolina ----- District Leader (Training), Hills South District

HARDING, Melissa Joy ----- District Cub Scout Leader, Blue Mountains District

KOKAY, Craig Dow ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Parramatta Scout Troop

MCGRATH, Christine Therese ----- Scout Leader, 1st Westmead Scout Troop



SILVER WATTLE – for Outstanding Service

CUNEO, Kathleen Margaret ----- Regional Comm (Adult Trng & Dev), Greater Western Sydney Region

DALZIEL, Margo Janine ----- Waratah Scout Fellowship

FREEMAN, Gregory Robert ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Scout Troop

GALE, John Stuart ----- Rover Adviser (Responsible), 2nd Baulkham Hills Rover Crew Graham

BRETT Lloyd ----- District Adviser, Penrith City District

JEFFS, Maree ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith Cub Pack 'Glenmore'

SHAW, Lorraine Margaret ----- Region Adviser, Greater Western Sydney Region

WALLACE, Stephen Paul ----- District Venturer Scout Leader, Blacktown District

WATTS, Duncan Leslie ----- Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Scout Troop



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD – for Outstanding Service

MASON, Richard Charles ----- Fellowship Member, Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD – for Excellent Service

AQUILINA, John Joseph ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Glossodia Cub Pack

BURR, Richard ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Scout Troop

BURR, Sharon Jane ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Cub Pack

CONNOR, Glenn William ----- Rover Advisor (Non Responsible) Blacktown Rover Crew

HENRIKSSON, Philomena ----- Scout Leader, 1st Murray Farm Scout Troop

HUMPHREYS, Karl Francis ----- Region Leader (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region

HYATT, Paula Anne ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Venturer Unit

MCGARRY, Carol Therese ----- Secretary Waratah Scout Fellowship

MCLEAN, Julie Karen ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Westmead Venturer Unit

SMITH, Rosemary Diane ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Venturer Unit

SULLIVAN, Neal Raymond John ----- Regional Leader (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region

THOMPSON, Gabrielle Anne ----- District Cub Scout Leader, Hills South District

VELLA, Matthew Guy ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Venturer Unit

WINCHESTER, Aaron Luke ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Cub Pack

Continued on next page...



SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD – For Good Service

ACHERMANN, Robert	Appointed Trainee Leader(S), 1st Wentworthville Scout Troop
BARRAH, Michael Raymond	Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Scout Troop “Erskine”
BRUIN, Thomas Peter	Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Scout Troop “Dunphy”
BURNSIDE, Mark Scott	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Grose Vale Cub Pack
DAWSON, Donna Alison	Joey Scout Leader, 1st Parramatta Joey Mob
DRINKWATER, Julie Nicole	Trainee Leader(Scout), 1st North Rocks Scout Troop
DYBALL, Richard Lloyd	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Cub Pack “Boronia”
EDWARDS, Heather	Group Leader, 1st North Mt Druitt Scout Group
ELLIOT, Rebecca Helene	Group Leader 1st Hazelbrook Scout Group
FEWKES, Jessica Ann	Joey Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Joey Mob “Python”
GEYER, Tracey	Group Treasurer, 1st Grose Vale Scout Group
HAMMOND, Jamie Ray	Cub Scout Leader, 1st Hazelbrook Cub Pack “Cumbora”
HARRIS, Eric Clifford	Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Troop
HARRIS, Peter Michael	Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Springwood Scout Troop
HAUGH, Daniel Graeme	Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s) Venturer Unit
HENRY, Anthony Mark	Scout Leader, 1st Emu Plains Scout Troop “Barindji”
JOEL, Tallia Terese	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Cub Pack
JOHAM, Helmut Joseph	Assistant Scout Leader, 2nd Kings Langley Scout Troop
LANG, David James	Supporter Greater Western Sydney Region
LOMAS, Kerri Leigh	Cub Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Blacktown Cub Pack
MACARTHUR, Anthony James	Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Joey Mob
MCPHERSON, Robert Allan	Supporter, 1st Grose Vale Scout Group
OVERLAND, Joshua Hugh	Appointed Trainee Leader(S), 2nd Castle Hill Scout Troop
REDWIN, James	Cub Scout Leader, 1st Emu Plains Cub Pack “Booragorang”
ROBINSON, Gregory Francis	Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Cub Pack “Pukeena”
SAUNDERS, Desmond Allan	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Cub Pack “Boronia”
SHERWIN, Fiona Louise	Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith Scout Troop “Yee-Na-Pah”
SMITH, Marta	Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Springwood Joey Mob
SUFFLING, Debra Michelle	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Rydalmere Cub Pack
VINCENT, Jonathan James	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Cub Pack “Keego”
WADE, Donnalee	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Blacktown Cub Pack
WHEELER, Brett Raymond	Supporter, 3rd Merrylands Cub Pack
WILLIAMS, Simone	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Cub Pack “Impeesa”
ZARTH, Sharon	Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st St Marys Cub Pack

Adult Recognition Awards

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

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

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

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

The Awards are normally worn on Scouting occasions such as Annual General Meeting’s, Good Service Award presentations and on any other formal Scouting occasion, when it is stated that Scouting Decorations may be worn. Awardees should wear their medals on these occasions and be proud that their peers have acknowledged

ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

The training team of Greater Western Sydney is responsible for supporting new leaders through their training, encouraging experienced leaders to complete their wood badge and provide opportunities for all leaders to extend their skills through activities and electives.

This year the training team has faced a number of challenges as Scouts Australia and Scouts NSW branch have altered and rearranged the processes. Where scout leadership training and gaining external qualifications were part of the same process they have now been separated. To gain external qualifications now requires an application to a different part of the scouting structure.

The training team which consists of a number of trainers, many personal leader advisors and the group leaders has withstood the barrage of information sent to them and has ensured that our section leaders are all cared for. Thank goodness for electronic communication. Snail mail (and my budget) would not have coped.

As a Region we were very prominent at the advanced courses last year and as a result had thirty three wood badges awarded through the year. Congratulations to all these people for their hard work and dedication. Your skills will be appreciated by your youth members. I am encouraging all leaders who have more than 12 months experience to complete their training by doing the wood badge course. Holding a wood badge will be a requirement for all section leaders. It is expected that section leaders are the most experienced.

Thank you to my training team of Jeff Hook, Tony Dent, Carol Cope, Frank Barr and Stuart Cowen. Although Carol, Frank and Stuart hold State appointments they are still GWS trainers (in my eyes). A big thank you also to Aafke Fatcher-Hall and Ann Pounder who are my district leader trainers and do a lot of the "following up".

Kathy Cuneo
Region Commissioner
(Adult Training & Development)



GWSR 2015-2016 Wood Badge Recipients

Joey Scout Section

Alice Gravina, 1st Kellyville
Christopher Gary Cardona, 1st Erskine Park
Karen Lee Cardona, 1st Erskine Park
Kasey Staples, 1st/2nd Blacktown
Lauren Massie, 1st Balcombe Heights
Paula Mitchell, 1st North Rocks
Zoe Stephens, 1st Carlingford

Cub Scout Section

Anthony Calafate, 1st Kellyville
Benajmin Staples, 1st/2nd Blacktown
Bernard Hughes, 1st North Rocks
Charlotte Abnett, 2nd Kings Langley
Donnalee Wade, 1st / 2nd Blacktown
Helen Hodge, 2nd Castle Hill
Kerri Lomas, 1st/2nd Blacktown
Stephen Furst, 1st North Rocks
Tara Bonitz, 1st Kellyville

Scout Section

Andrew William Mclean, 1st Erskine Park
Diane Higgins, 1st Ermington
Fiona Sherwin, 1st South Penrith
Julia Drinkwater, 1st North Rocks
Timothy West, 1st Hawkesbury
William Wade, 1st/2nd Blacktown

Venturer Scout Section

Cameron Foye, 1st Blaxland
Janice Petrina Edwards, 1st Erskine Park
Jason Ross Edwards, 1st Erskine Park
Jennifer Huthnance, 1st Springwood
Jodie Astley, 1st/2nd Blacktown
Matthew Vella, 1st Kings Langley

Rover Section

Angus Boxall, Kings Langley
Jonhnathan Raymond Morey, 1st Toongabbie
Lawrence Pearce, Hawkesbury River

Leader of Adults

Elena Connor, 1st/2nd Blacktown
Lisa Anne Dent, 1st Toongabbie

COMMUNICATIONS & PR

The last year has been a very busy one for my team;

- maintenance of and content updates to Region website and Region Calendar
- updates to Region email distribution lists
- management of social media for Region pages
- promotion of Region events and activities
- design and reproduction of Region Annual Report
- purchase of new WIFI equipment for Bundilla

In addition to our other responsibilities, I have been devoting much time to the further development and enhancement of our 'Region EMS' (Event Management System) - www.events.greaterwestscouts.com.au.

After successful trials on selected events over the past year (some big and some small), the online registrations system will soon be used for all Region Events and Activities going forward. A handover to the Region Council and Activities teams will be held in late July 2016.

Of course, with any new system there are improvements that can be made. I continue to receive feedback and make tweaks to the system to make it easier for everyone, leaders, participants, event organisers and the Region Office. Some recent major improvements include the automated membership number checks with ScoutLink, participant wristbands for Events and the Online E-Permissions system.

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, and thanks to David Shaw for his ongoing support and assistance with communications.

My thanks to all our amazing leaders for their continued support and dedication to Scouting in our Region. Please keep up the great work! Our youth members thank you for your service.

Matt Thompson
Region Commissioner
(Communications & PR)



INTERNATIONAL

Our Region once again has been involved in various International activities and events over the past twelve months.

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

- Region Jamborette
- 19th Gippsland Corroboree
- 2nd Victorian Agoonoree
- 1st Castle Hill 100th Anniversary
- 2nd Wauchope Joey Scout Mob
- 24th Australian Jamboree AJ2016

In addition our Region had members in attendance at the following International events:

- 23rd World Scout Jamboree Japan
- 25th Asia Pacific Region Scout Conference Korea
- 8th Asia Pacific Region, Youth Forum Korea
- 13th New Zealand Venture
- Scout International Student Exchange Program England and Denmark

In regards to the 23rd World Scout Jamboree held in Japan our region was privileged to have Aaron Wardle, our Region Commissioner Venturers as the Australian Contingent Leader with the contingent numbering 331 members, the biggest Australian Contingent at a World Scout Jamboree which included 21 members from our own Region, again the biggest number we have ever had.

Aaron Wardle did a marvellous job as Contingent Leader which is a great credit to him and our Region.

The 13th New Zealand Venture also had the greatest number of Venturers attending from Australia which included 28 from our Region.

Our International Display and Activities held at the 24th Australian Jamboree AJ2016 were well received by the scouts and this Jamboree was the first Jamboree that International was truly acknowledged and identified as part of the Jamboree Award being one of three bases that must be completed towards the award.

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

- New South Wales International Friendship Team ran several International Showcases
- Our Region has been involved with the Scout International Student Exchange Program both in participating and home hospitality

- We had Leaders from Canada, Hong Kong and New Caledonia visit during the year

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.

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)

STRATEGY

The role of Region Leader, Strategy was created to take on Strategic aspects of our Region organization, to assist in delivering our goals.

With Scouting numbers stable across NSW, we now need to grow in order to contain our costs, and to encourage life experiences for our members. Following the completion of the NSW Branch Strategy for 2016 – 2018, GWS Region has started a process to deliver our part.

NSW Branch Goals

By the end of 2018 we will have;

- 16,000 Youth Members through the delivery of vibrant, effective and consistent youth programs;
- 800 new Leaders through Recruitment;
- Financial break even across all operations;
- Lower administrative workloads/processes through smart use of technology;
- Complete business plans (including maintenance plans) for all Scout properties.

“The vision for Scouting is to be seen as the pre-eminent youth organisation in Australia.

We engage and inspire young Australians to develop confidence, resilience and leadership

The mission of Scouts is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society”

Greater Western Sydney Group Forum

On Sunday 6th March, the best and the brightest of GWS Leadership came together at Bundilla to discuss Scouting in Greater Western Sydney in 2018.

60 Group Leaders, Leaders in Charge, Section Leaders, District and Region Leaders workshopped some key issues that we need to focus the next couple of years to ensure our movement continues the journey from GOOD to GREAT.

The three key areas of focus for GWS Region in 2016 are;

- Growth in Youth membership
- Growth in Leader membership
- Sustainable Funding for groups

Here is an example of the great ideas brought forward by the team. This is a business card that can be handed out to prospective members at events we attend.



Simple idea but effective.

We are currently setting up a ‘Brains Trust’ Group across GWS Region, to tap into great ideas that we are currently trying or that we haven’t had the opportunity to try yet.



With a committed Region, passionate about Scouting, we will continue to see grow across GWS and a more fulfilling experience for our members and supporters.

Yours in Scouting

Geoff Henderson

Region Leader (Strategy)

ACTIVITIES



With all the changes over the last few years in activity qualifications; along with the way we deliver activities; I can say that this last 12 months, has been a time when we have just got out and done stuff. Lots of really good stuff!

There is so much happening on the adventurous activity front. Some people have even been a bit critical that there have been a lot of clashes with two, three and even more adventurous activities all happening on the same weekend. With only 52 weekends a year, there is not much I can do about that, ...but what a great problem to have!

All credit must go to a very dedicated team of passionate Activity Leaders, each with a special activity skill, and each with a real passion to want to share that skill with others.

Our Water Activities Team, led by Tracey Hansford, has seen numerous water skill days where we teach young scouts how to be safe and confident on the water in a canoe. Many of these days we have held down at Lake Parramatta, which provides an ideal environment for beginners to intermediates, with no tides, currents or Rivercats (unless it's very lost) to contend with.

Keith Travers has also been busy with a number of sailing days, along with running a number of five day sailing workshops, the last one having nearly a dozen participants. Thank you to John van de Burg who has also helped Keith out on a number of these activities. I also must acknowledge Neal Sullivan who stepped

down from Scouting after many years of service. Neal was an experienced sailor, and helped out on both sailing and canoeing activities. Neal was also skilled in the Flying fox. We do wish him and his lovely wife Alison all the very best, in their next pursuit in life.

I would also like to welcome Bryan Hall to the activities team. Bryan has a number of activity skills, including canoeing, and will be a great asset to the team.

During the off season I was able to rebuild one of the canoe trailers, fitting a new aluminium base, new lights, and a new paint job in "Region Blue." I was also able to purchase 4 x sit on top kayaks (ex AJ2016) to add to our flotilla of craft.

Rock activities have always been strong in the GWS Region. Abseiling is continuing to be a popular activity under the watchful eye of Stuart Cowen, with numerous workshops, and rescue training days, throughout the year. Unlike canoeing which is more restricted to the warmer months, abseiling is a year round activity. I also must acknowledge the support of Mick Fry who has kept us up to date with the latest equipment and trends in abseiling techniques and safety requirements.

Caving is one of those activities that not a lot of regions can offer. Under the careful guidance of Meredith Stewart, and along with a very dedicated team of both leaders and Venturers, (affectionally know as Wombats) they have run some fantastic weekends, sometimes numbering over 60+ participants.

While still on rock we now have a well-established canyoning team (Yabbies) under the control of Ross Smith. Ross knows a myriad of canyons to explore. With names like Death Trap Canyon or Tiger Snake Canyon, you do wonder where we are heading, but having been on some of Ross's trips, they offer a wonderful way of seeing something so unique in the mountains, even if the water is a touch on the chilly side.

The Climbing Wall continues to be ever so popular at scouting and community events, where we do have the opportunity to showcase scouting in a hands-on, fun way.





Over the years Bush walking has always been strong in the Region under the watchful eye of Frank Barr. While some may have considered it quite a challenge to fill Frank's Shoes, Tristan Flores has certainly succeeded in doing just that, taking bushwalking within the region to the next level, with numerous day and overnight hikes covering a wide range of hiking environments.

This is also evident in the large number of Scouts doing their Green Cord Hikes.

John Leahey, with his incredible array of science and physics displays, continues to amaze all with the Science Base, with GWS being the only Region in the state that can offer this very unique and fascinating activity. Working closely with John is Karl Humphreys who runs the Radio Base, allowing both leaders and youth alike to experience and operate a variety of radio communication equipment.

GWS is also one of the few Regions in the State that still run a flying fox. Always a huge hit at the Region Jamboree, we have also seen it up and running at Bundilla for both Cubs & Joeys. Big thank you to Quentin Napier for his enthusiastic effort any time we run the fox.



The Activities portfolio also includes performing arts made up with both Cumberland Gang Show and the Circus Team. Cumberland Gang Show is one of the largest Gang Shows in Australia providing huge opportunities for participants to experience all aspects of theatre, from performing, through to production, orchestration, technical and backstage.

Likewise the Circus Team, have provided some great opportunity for its members to enjoy learning and perfecting many circus skills through workshops, and providing us all opportunity to try something new.

Thank you all, for your continuing support of the Region Activities. Thank you to the Region Team for providing us with funds to maintain and update our gear. And of course thank you to my Region Activity Team. Your passion to activities, or diligence to safety, and your desire to have fun has all worked so well. BRAVOOO to you all!

Mark Fell (Dingo)
Region Commissioner (Activities)



BUSHWALKING

I am pleased to report the bushwalking spirit in GWS is alive and well. Our bushwalking team has gone from strength to strength. We designed a season program intended to be ambitious, adventurous and inspirational. There are a range of practice hikes available for beginners through to experienced people on the pathway to bushwalking guide.

We are targeting young Scouts specifically as this is when overnight hikes are introduced. In time this will benefit the sections above. In April we ran a four day hike which enabled to reach deeper into the national park to experience some of the most beautiful places on the Coxs River.

Scout groups and districts are extending a tremendous effort to provide bushwalking opportunities for their youth members. I am very pleased to see more and



more networking and resource sharing which has increased access to bushwalking across the region.

Internal qualifications arrived towards the end of last year are sufficient for most walks. State implemented this change, it took some fine tuning but now working very effectively. SIS external qualifications continue to be required for guide level.

The bush is very dry at the moment we are seeing some of the driest conditions in decades. Many intermittent creeks and streams have run dry. Please plan your walks carefully and make allowances for this. I would like to acknowledge Frank Barr who provides us with invaluable support behind the scenes.

Tristan Flores
Bushwalking Coordinator

CAVING

Since our last report, we have conducted four caving workshops, one “adVenturous” weekend, and a Scout Proficiency Caving Badge Course.

The Caving workshops at Bungonia are where Venturers and older Scouts who have already learned abseiling can come and learn basic caving skills. Return trips allow them to increase their caving and ropes skills and explore new caves. Some continue their learning experience, coming back as “team” members who help teach new cavers the ropes.

We run two trips for experienced cavers to other caving sites annually. The latest two have been to Abercrombie Caves, and to Timor Caves. Both trips were thoroughly enjoyed by the participants. Thanks must go to Tallia Joel for organising the Abercrombie trip. Timor caves is a great location near Murrurundi. Our small group spent some time exploring the hillside to find “new” caves. We have decided we should return there, camp on site and do more caving.

A special request came to run some extra caving for Venturers in the June holidays 2015, so we made a special program with horizontal caving on Saturday and a walk into the Beautiful Bungonia Gorge on Sunday.

Our annual Scout Caving Proficiency Badge Course was run in the April holidays and was hugely successful. We filled the caves to capacity again this year, with a



great group of keen Scouts. These courses could not possibly run without a large team of helpers and cave instructors – thank you to all of the team for being there. We were also had some cavers from the South Australian scout caving Group join us and it was great to see their knowledge and experience, help us out with getting the scouts through Wee Jasper caves. We hope to return the favour and planning is in progress for a trip to South Australia next year some time. Our Venturer helpers at Wee Jasper had the opportunity to explore some vertical caves outside of the Scout caving hours.

Finally we recently heard news that Jordan Fenech, one of our team members, who received his original caving experience with GWSR Wombats, has just been made the President of SUSS (Sydney University Speleological Society). Congratulations and BRAVO, Jordan!

Caving is great fun, and a unique way to explore our environment. We learn geology, teamwork, rope skills, and friendship. We look forward to seeing you underground sometime.

Meredith Stewart
Caving Coordinator

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW



2015 was our 46th season which was very successful with a continuation of the new staging and technical enhancements. The theme of the show was Reach with a great mix of new and old original material, commercial songs and the return of Swan Lake.

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.

The Comet Cast continued with young 7 to 9 year old joeys scouts, cub scouts and the guiding equivalent performing in an increased number of items in the first act.

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 returned to 8 performances and with matinees continuing to be popular, our season attendance increased on previous years to 4700 patrons attending our spectacular performances at Parramatta Riverside Theatre in the July school holidays.

We again experienced the yearly frustration of finding a suitable warehouse for the final rehearsals involving costumes, sets, the stage boxes and the orchestra.

The theme of the 2016 show is PowerUP and again has a great mix of new and old original material and commercial songs.

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.

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

CIRQUE DU SCOUT

The highlight of the 2015-2016 Circus year was AJ2016. Venturers and Rovers from GWS and around Australia played key roles in ensuring the success of AJ2016. The onsite Cirque du Scout Activity base was run by Ayla Jones, the GWS RRC Vice Chair. The staff comprised 30 Rovers, along with Leaders and Venturers, mostly from Greater Western Sydney Region. The Cirque du Scout base allowed the skilled scouting circus performers in NSW to show off their best tricks, as well as teach the basics to younger members of the movement. The executive team for the base was primarily under 20 years old, and had an excellent opportunity to develop skills in leadership and management. The contribution of the talented GWS Venturers and Rovers to the Cirque du Scout base helped make the Jamboree a huge success.



DISTRICT REPORTS

BLACKTOWN

2015 started out with our Venturers and Leaders heading to South Australia for the 16th Australian Venture held at Woodhouse Activity Centre where they had a "Heaps Good" time.

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 we had 71 youth and leaders travel to Canberra to attend the Dawn Service at the War Memorial. All Groups participated in Clean Up Australia Day in March in their local areas and in May the Blacktown District participated in the Street Parade at the Blacktown City Festival where we had over 100 youth and leaders from all sections participating.

The District also had many members participate in the Cumberland Gang Show which was at the Riverside Theatres, Parramatta in July.

The 1st/2nd Blacktown Group established a Joey Mob during the year which is continuing to grow. The District Jokeys attended the Joey Fun Day at Bundilla in May and participated in many activities in their Groups.

Cubs enjoyed many activities including the annual Billy Cart Derby which was held in August.

Regular activities which the Scouts participated in were the Region Jamborette at Bents Basin in June and a Leadership Course in March at Springwood and a District Hike in October called "Surf & Turf" which involved Canoeing & Hiking in Marramarra National Park. From Barefoot Bowles to camping at Donkey Mountain in the Newnes Valley, Canyoning in the Blue Mountains and Caving at Wee Jasper were just some of the activities undertaken by Scouts during the year. The year ended with the Tracey Stopps and David McKinley preparing their Scout troops so they could attend AJ2016 at Cataract Scout Park in January 2016.

The Venturers participated in Dragon Skin over the Easter weekend and they then enjoyed the Waratah in November which saw them travelling by public transport to Lithgow to seek "Revenge of the Wraith". 1st Whalan organised a Bike hike from Bell to Newnes in October. The Queen's Scout Award was presented to Mitchell Howlett, Amanda Wade and Meglyn Dent

all from 1st/2nd Blacktown and Luke Vella from 1st Kings Langley attended the Mawson Scholarship held in Melbourne in September.

The Blacktown Rover crew which is based at 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Hall, has continued to grow and now provides valuable service to Groups within the Blacktown District. They had their first squire appointed during the year.

In May we were saddened with the passing of Anne Muir who was a Joey Leader at 1st Toongabbie, Anne gave almost 17 ½ years' service to Scouting.

The resignation of Mitchell Anderson, Group Leader at 2nd Kings Langley saw Juanita Jordan step into the role but unfortunately due to personal commitments she was unable to continue with it, as a result Andrew Anderson stepped down from being the District Scout Leader to become the Group Leader at 2nd Kings Langley.

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

Ross Howlett
District Commissioner

BLUE MOUNTAINS

The Year has gone by pretty quick, with all the Groups actively participating in District, Region, State and National events.

Joeys have grown with the re-opening of 1st Blaxland Joey Mob and continue with the amount of ideas that join all the Mobs together in every event, and with a Number of Joey Promise Challenges being achieved.

Cubs got right into the District Cub Pack Holiday, and they also had a Great time at the Region Jamborette Cub Day, the best voices were brought out when they had a District Campfire, and we have had a few Grey Wolf awarded, the Cubs of the District have had great input to the District Growth and give a great program to the Cubs.

District Scout Camp at Orange started the year off well, and then had a District Hike, all before Region Jamborette, in the spring the Scouts participated in State Rally at Glenfield, then followed that shortly after with Scout Leadership Course, then Australian Jamboree at Cataract in January.

The Scouts have increased their Numbers, the dedication of all the Leaders from the Troops, have made the Scouts do their best at all the challenges presented to them, and the variety of ideas being explored. There has been a number of Green Cords and a few ASMs achieved.

Venturers welcomed the re-opening of the 1st Hazelbrook Unit, this made it easier for the Scouts to select a unit in the District, Venturers have had great adventures with hikes of all types, the Region Social Camp, Dragon Skin, Region Jamborette, and Waratah. With a couple of Queen's Scouts awarded made a good foundation for more growth.

Rovers are always involved, they are into every event within the Region, supplying activities, security and challenges that are always welcomed by the rest of the District and Region, and of course Dragon Skin.

The District attended the ANZAC day marches of Blackheath, Springwood and Blaxland. And were a sight to see in full uniform together as one.

I thank the Leaders for all their work and dedication, to the Committees who have supported everyone, and the Parents for getting involved.

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 saw a limited number of award recipients' including:

Cubs – Grey Wolf

1st Hawkesbury - Brandon Kent and Mikhael Andonian
1st Oakville - Adam Davis and Lachlan Edwards.

Adults – Special Service

1st Oakville - Duncan Watts SL - Silver Wattle
1st Oakville - Greg Freeman ASL - Silver Wattle
1st Oakville - Rose Smith AVSL - Meritorious Service
1st Glossodia - John Aquilina DC SL
- Meritorious Service
1st Grose Vale - Mark Burnside ASCL LIC (Resigned)
- Special Service
1st Grose Vale - Tracey Geyer Group Supporter
- Special Service
1st Grose Vale - Bob McPherson Group Supporter
- Special Service

To start the year off, the district attended a Herpetologist night where they learnt about various reptiles. There was also a palaeontologist who gave talk on dinosaurs. The members were able to hold various reptiles and buy dinosaur teeth and claws which was a huge hit.

Mindari hosted the Districts annual Raft building and race followed by various water activities to celebrate Founders Day. This was great event which saw nearly all members attend, the night finished up with a great sausage sandwich and drink, catered for by 1st Glossodia and 1st Oakville.





All Groups attended various ANZAC day Dawn Services and the ANZAC Day March in Richmond. The Hawkesbury River Rovers and Venturers attended Dawn Service in Martin Place then assisted with the Sydney March.

The District also had a great promotional Scout stand at the Hawkesbury Show where we received many enquiries about Scouting not only for the Hawkesbury District but also for across the Region. The stand received third place for the best Commercial stand. The District Scouts, following Miss Hawkesbury Showgirl, lead the Grand Parade, which received much support from the spectators.

St George Day celebrations, organised by 1st Grose Vale, held at the Anglican Church in Kurrajong and was well represented by all Section from each Group.

The District Cub Scouts were kept busy throughout the year attending many events including;

Cub Day at Jamboree, where there were so many activities for the Cubs they couldn't work what they wanted to do first, but the mud slide and canoes were the most popular.

In July, the Cubs had their District Camp at Camp Ku Ring Gai. The camp was catered for by four of the 1st Glossodia Venturers. One of the main attractions at the camp was the huge Moreton Bay fig tree by the river which could hold 40 odd cubs at any one time. Another main attraction at the camp was the participation in state camp fire. For the lighting of the camp fire, the Venturers prepared a specular lighting of the camp fire by "the fire gods"....A great weekend had by all.

The District Out and About activity was to Garden Island, which saw more than 80 participants attending. Needless to say they had to break up into two groups to get through the place.

Who can forget Super Saturday at Jamboree. So many cubs and parents, joined some 10,000 other Cubs and parents on the day. Those who attended had a great time but wore themselves out, the bus trip home was very quiet.

The Cubs had a morning walk to Poets Rock at Bowen Mountain. The views from the rock at the end were spectacular. Here the Cubs saw Brandon Kent receive his Grey Wolf. After the presentation some of the Cubs and Leaders recited bush poetry and ballads. Following the walk, the Cubs met up at Bowen Mountain Park where they finished the morning with a lunch time BBQ.

Unfortunately 1st Oakville said good bye to Gary Hudson (Baloo) after many years of service in the cub section. He will be sadly missed...

With Cuboree just around the corner we are sure to have another exciting year ahead preparing for this great event.

The Scout section had a busy year with numerous District and Region activities: Scout Hike, District Rally, Jamboree, 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.

State Rally was well attended with Hawkesbury District running half the Regions bases.

District rally was well attended and a great time was had by all.

The district Scouts attended Scout hike, where again Hawkesbury District leaders assisted with the hike.

Jamboree saw a great attendance by all 4 groups with approximately 45 youth and 6 Leaders from Scouts, as well as other district representatives including Caroline Watts (Welfare), John Aquilina (Venturer Camp), Garry Hudson (Medical Driver), and Phil Heinrich (Special Diets). The Jamboree was also well supported by the Districts Venturers and Will Sinclair (Rover) who did a fantastic job helping out throughout the Jamboree. Some of the Venturers roles included assisting on bases, reporting and taking interviews for the JNN radio and the daily onsite newspaper. There were reports from the Bands that the Venturers interviewed, saying that they were very professional and asked really great questions, better than the professional interviewers.

The 1st Glossodia and 1st Oakville Venturer Units continue to grow. Apart from the regular hikes and camping trips, they have carried out and attended a wide range of activities including; Scout Hike and ran a base, Dragon Skin, Waratah, organised a base at Jamboree.

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.

Blackhorse 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, Power Boat Races, Plant Sales, 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

2015 has been a busy year for Scouting in the Hills District.

With the good times comes the sad with the passing of our DSL, Ian Shield mid year. He will be sorely missed as he was well liked and popular with the youth and leaders alike.

On a better note the Joeys are experiencing a wonderful year with members starting to grow and new leaders starting to enjoy the joy that the younger youth members experience. They continue to support Local, District & Region events.

5 Joey Promise Challenge Badges have been awarded in 2015. Our experienced leaders continue to deliver an enjoyable programme and teach and mentor our newest leaders. To our DJSL, Leonie Plummer, a big thank you for your continued guidance & support taking on the role. To all in Joeys a big HOP, HOP, HOP.

Promise Challenge Badge to:

- Tayliya Kyprianou - 2nd Castle Hill
- Mackenzie Sherman - 1st Balcombe Heights

- Kailash Sureshkumar - 1st Balcombe Heights
- Raphaela Woodford - 1st Balcombe Heights
- Patrick Dooley – 1st Balcombe Heights

Cubs continue to grow with all packs experiencing growth in their numbers, the biggest growth being at West Pennant Hills Valley with numbers going from 11 – 22. The Cubs have had a busy year with wide and varied activities whilst also supporting various District & Region events. The leaders remain enthusiastic as shown in their programmes, giving the youth a wide range of experiences. A successful District Camp was held at Camp Coutts late in the year and a good time was had by all.

There were 10 Grey Wolf awards presented in the District in 2015. Wombat's Challenge was presented to 2nd Castle Hill for the third year in a row.

The leaders continue to provide great programmes for the youth in their charge so a big 1, 2, 3, WOOF to the leaders in the District and to the kids. Also a big 1, 2, 3, WOOF to Gabie Thompson for her job as DCSL, for her guidance and support to all packs.

Grey Wolf Award to:

- Cassandra Fry - 2nd Baulkham Hills
- Corey Brooke – 1st Kellyville
- James Farrell – 2nd Baulkham Hills
- Aaron Harmeling – 1st Kellyville
- Patrick Henson – 1st Castle Hill
- Daniel Peterson – 1st Kellyville
- Scott Drury – 1st Kellyville
- Luke Kahane – 1st Balcombe Heights
- Shannon Battam – 1st Kellyville
- Sharmaine Jagers – 1st Kellyville

The Scouts Section had a very busy year with participation in District, Region & State activities including Scout Hike, State Rally & Region Jamborette. The activities offered to the Scouts were wide and varied and very memorable.

There were also two Green Cords presented and 1 of these progressing to be awarded his Australian Scout Medallion that being John Goode from 1st Kellyville.

We also welcomed a new DSL to the District that being Tracey Stopps from 1st/2nd Blacktown. Tracey has a wealth of knowledge and experience and we welcome her to our team. I know Tracey will work well with the youth and leaders. 2016 activities are already well in the planning stages.

But the main focus of 2015 was for AJ2016 at Cataract Scout Park. The district had about 70-80 youth apply and 10-20 leaders apply as well. A good time was had by all especially with the difficulties with the weather – 4 seasons in one day at times. So a big BRAVO to all leaders for their efforts in getting the youth to the Jamboree and for their effort throughout 2015.

Green Cord to:

- David Sirianni – 1st Dural
- James Goode – 1st Kellyville

ASM

- James Goode – 1st Kellyville

Venturers in 2015 have been busy with them working towards getting to the New Zealand Venture or AJ2016. At the end of 2015 I had the pleasure of conducting 3 Queen's Scout interviews for 3 Venturers from 2nd Baulkham Hills, Lachlan Smith was also awarded a 2015 Mawson Scholarship. Shaun Lesslie DVSL continues to work well with all units within the district and provide a good support to all venturers and leaders. Shaun is also working with 1st Dural with the aim to reopen Dural's Venturers early in 2016. Participation at Dragon Skin was also a great experience for the venturers.

2015 Mawson Scholarship:

- Lachlan Smith - 2nd Baulkham Hills

Queen's Scout

- Lachlan Smith - 2nd Baulkham Hills
- Bailey Harris - 2nd Baulkham Hills
- Ben Kahane – 2nd Baulkham Hills

The groups continue to support local activities with participation at 3 different ANZAC marches within the district being Kellyville/Castle Hill, Annangrove & Galston. Also there was good participation at the Orange Blossom festival march which was reintroduced after a 5 year absence.

Most groups appear to have a steady increase in recruitment with both youth and leaders, but all are actively attempting to recruit.

November 2015 saw 1st Castle Hill celebrate their Centenary with an open day for past & present members.

The day was a rousing success with everybody having a great day, renewing old friendships and making new ones. There were numerous displays and experiences talked about. The day could not have been a success without the committee and especially Tracy Hourd, the group secretary, who worked very hard over the year to make it happen. So a great big BRAVO to Tracy and her team.

1st Kellyville are in the planning stage for their 70th anniversary with a date set for February 2016.

The leaders have all done exceptionally well in 2015 with 4 Wood Badges awarded with 2 in the Joey section and 2 in the Cub section so well done to those leaders for their achievement.

Also to the leaders, thank you for your time and effort in 2015 for making it a good year of scouting in the district. The programmes have been both challenging for the older section and fun, full of different experiences for both the younger and old sections.

A big thank you goes to leader families for giving the leaders the time to spend educating the youth within their charge.

The efforts of all leaders and committees does not go unnoticed so a big THANK YOU from me and all the youth and their families.

Wood Badge

- Helen Hodge - 2nd Castle Hill (Cub)
- Alice Gravina – 1st Kellyville (Joey)
- Tara Bonitz – 1st Kellyville (Cub)
- Lauren Massie – 1st Balcombe Heights (Joey)

I would also like to congratulate Brian Roberts for receiving a NSW Seniors Award.

Finally to my team, Aafke (DL AT&D), Leonie Plummer (DJSL), Gabie (DCSL & ADC), Ian Shield and then Tracey Stopps (DSL), Shaun Lesslie (DVSL) & Brian Roberts (DA) and all Group Leaders / LICs thank you for your support during the year. Lets have just as good a year, if not better in 2016

Gavan Hall
District Commissioner

HOLROYD

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 this is evident by the number badges being earned and awarded to the youth members and to the leaders who were recognised also for their efforts. Congratulations to Col Nicholas, Christine McGrath, Julie McLean, Aaron Winchester, Daniel Waugh and Brett Wheeler.

The Annual Swimming Carnival was again held at the Merrylands Swimming Centre and special thank you to the Blue Mountains Fellowship for their assistance in the recording of results and the printing of certificates and to Westmead Pinnaroo for their assistance also at this event.

Founders Day was celebrated at Lake Parramatta with Scouts Own led by Jeannie Wood and Christine McGrath, during the day the youth members had a great time canoeing on the lake and swimming at the "beach".

Holroyd District Scouts once again participated 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 2015/2016 both the Leaders and the Youth members have attended various courses and activities during the year, for the Youth Members the most memorable would have to have been the Jamboree at Cataract Scout Camp, I did visit some of the troops on the Super Saturday and it seemed that they were all having great time, to the leaders that also attended the Jamboree I hope that you are getting back the satisfaction of seeing the young people under your guidance going ahead in their achievements.

Holroyd District also held information stalls at the Australia Day celebrations at Merrylands Oval, Family Festival and Fun4Kids at Central Gardens thank you to Cumberland Gang Show members for their assistance at Fun4Kids.

The District Promotion Team had been out and about at Greystanes and Stockland Mall promoting Scouting with various successes, so once again well done to those people on this Team. It is good to see that further dates have been set at these locations and other events through the year to continue the promotion of Scouting

Ron Brown
District Commissioner

PARRAMATTA

It has been a mixed year for Parramatta District. 1st Wentworthville Scout Group went into recess due to a lack of numbers and the opportunity to do some much needed building works on the hall. 2nd Northmead started a Joey Mob that is going well after 11 months and 1st Ermington reopened their Venturer unit with a new batch of Scouts going up to Venturers with three new leaders. 1st Winston Hills Venturers are regrouping with a large cohort leaving the group through turning 18, so Ermington and Winston Hills are meeting together until numbers strengthen in both groups.

Recruiting - All of the groups have worked hard on recruiting in the past 12 months with some mixed results. 1st North Rocks had over 100 youth members during 2015. This has settled back in 2016 as some youth members decided to pursue sporting and academic options instead of Scouting. 1st Rydalmere has grown enormously with strong growth in the Cub Pack and some new members in the Scout Troop. 1st Ermington is still recovering from the threat of losing the hall. At the moment, numbers are steady and the hall issues seem to have receded for the time being. The 1st Murray Farm Joey Mob and Cub Pack are going well, but Scouts are still struggling to recover with District Scout Leader, Clinton Stewart, running the Scout Troop until a new leader can be found and trained.

Leaders – many groups said goodbye to long term leaders and the district thanks them for their many years of service at Group level.

- Leader in charge/Scout Leader - Philomena Henriksen, retired from 1st Murray Farm
- District Seenee Leader and Cub Scout Leader 1st Ermington – Virginia Klomp – resigned
- Ermington Joey/Cub/Venturer leader – Sandy Knox – resigned from a uniformed role but is still assisting 1st Ermington as a supporter with some grant writing.
- 1st North Rocks Venturer Leader – Alister Hayes – resigned
- 1st Parramatta Asst. Cub Scout Leader – Liz Hayes – resigned
- 1st Carlingford – Group Leader – Michael Cook – relocated to Queensland.

The District welcomed some new leaders and some leaders changing appointments.

- District Venturer Scout Leader – Brian Nelson

accepted a dual appointment, retaining his 1st North Rocks role.

- District Seeonee Leader – Melissa McAulay, 1st Rydalmere, took over the District Cub Packs.
- 1st North Rocks – Group Leader – Cassie Rec – accepted District Training Role and Region Special Needs role.
- 1st Wentworthville – LIC – Scout Leader Bryan Hall – accepted Regional Activity Leader Role (Water Activities)

Program and Activities

Many of the Scouts from Parramatta District attended AJ2016 and had a fabulous time. The Cub Scouts are currently active in many activities supporting the Centenary of Cub Scouts and Parramatta District combined with Hills District in a special Cub Scout screening of the Jungle Book at Castle Towers. Most groups are represented at District and Regional activities and many of the Cubs and Joeys have taken advantage of the Cub Canoe days run by the Region.

PENRITH CITY

2015 has been an active year for the District with many Sections participating in District, Region, State and National events.

Joeys have grown and continue to amaze us by the amount they are ready to try, with the most imagination in every event, with a Number of Joey Promise Challenges being achieved.

Cubs got right into the District Cub Pack Holiday, and they also had a Great time at the Region Jamborette Cub Day, the best voices were brought out when they had a District Campfire, we have had seen a small drop in numbers only as most have gone to Scouts.

Scouts had a start early with Leadership Course, and then had a District Hike followed by a Canoe Trip, all before Region Jamborette, in the spring the Scouts participated in State Rally at Glenfield, then followed that shortly after with a District Camp, all of this was to lead into the Australian Jamboree at Cataract in January.

The Scouts have increased their Numbers, this is an indication of how good the programs are being delivered in the Troops. And the variety of ideas being explored. There has been a number of Green Cords and a few ASMs achieved.

Swimming Carnival, Comp Camp, Wide Games, Out and About, Clean Up Australia Day and Anzac Day featured heavily on all Group calendars. Many of the Groups worked hard this year fundraising for Scouts to attend the Jamboree and the focus is now on the Cubs attending Cuboree.

Award Scheme

The District again produced several high achieving Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers who did the hard yards and were rewarded with Promise Challenges, Grey Wolves. Australian Scout Medallions and Queen's Scouts. Bravo to them all.

Thanks once again to the leaders and parents who tirelessly support Scouting in the District. Without your constant, high quality commitment to Scouting, we would be unable to provide a strong and active program for young people.

Tracey Hansford
District Commissioner

Venturers welcomed the re-opening of the 1st South Penrith Unit, this made it easier for the Scouts to select a unit in the District, Venturers have had great adventures with hikes of all types, canoe trips as a district, the Region Social Camp, Dragon Skin, Region Jamborette, and Waratah.

With a good number of Queen's Scouts awarded during this year, the District has added to the Region total.

Rovers are always involved, they are into every event within the Region, supplying activities, security and challenges that are always welcomed by the rest of the District and Region, and of course Dragon Skin.

The latter half of the Year was taken up with the work to be done at Cataract for the AJ2016, where the Crew were the Works and Services for the Jamboree, repairing and renewing the basic infrastructure.

The District as a whole attended the ANZAC day marches of St Marys, Werrington, Penrith and Warragamba. And were a sight to see in full uniform with all of the Groups together as one.

I thank the Leaders for all their work and dedication, to the Committees who have supported everyone, and the Parents for getting involved.

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 & 4 General meetings)

Service activities:

- Anzac Day March & Commemoration Ceremony
- Cub Scout Day at Scout Jamborette Bents Basin
- Cooking Duty at Cub Scout Leadership Course
- JOTA at 1st Glenbrook Scout Hall
- Medical, Technical & Bus Captain Duties @ AJ2016

Social activities:

- Bushwalk Paradise near Linden
- Gang Show Riverside Theatre Parramatta
- Scout Recognition Awards Celebration Dinner
- Cockatoo Island with Gang Show Fellowship
- Christmas Party at Tamsett residence Blaxland

Membership:

Our membership remains at 10 members. In spite of many approaches, we have not been able to secure new members, however the quest to increase membership continues to be an important issue for the group.

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

- Melissa Harding Silver Wattle
- Richard Mason Outstanding Service Award
- Jim Munro 25 years

I congratulate Melissa, Richard and Jim for their dedicated, committed service in receiving their awards.

The Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship is a group of enthusiastic, people who are pleasure to work with. I thank them all for their friendship, service and support throughout the year.

I have been privileged to serve the Fellowship this year and look forward to be given the opportunity to serve again in the year ahead.

Richard Mason
Chairperson
Blue Mountains
Scout Fellowship



PINNAROO

What a year 2015-16 has been. I thought it was going to be quiet, but it never seems to be so. Service this year has included running a Map & Compass Activity & Knotting Base for The Golden West Seeonee & Mindari, assisting with 1st Westmead Group Camp, collecting entry fees at Holroyd District Swimming Carnival, cooking for GWS Cub Scout Leadership Course and running a base at the State Agoonaree. Members have assisted at 1st Balcombe Heights & 1st Westmead Cub Packs and the GWS Jamborette at Bents Basin.

We also cleared, weeded and put in new plants in two gardens at Bundilla. One of our members revamped the Kitchen in 1st Westmead Hall, and built a new kitchen in the Rover Den. (Thanks to Ian & Margaret). We have also assisted with other maintenance.

In the wider community members have taken part in Clean-up Australia, assisted at the Children's Festival at 1st Fleet Park, and attended the Dawn Service at Merrylands. We ran a collection point for Red Shield Appeal with good results. Members also helped with knotting and putting up tents at Fairfield Public School, assisted Careflight with a display at the "Festival of the Winds" at Bondi. We collected food and household items for Ronald McDonald House and delivered them to the grateful staff.

We ended 2015 by making gifts and distributing them at the Southern Cross Nursing Home where we sang Christmas Carols for the residents.

Our social calendar saw us attend 1st Greystanes Trivia Night, a performance of Gang Show, travel to the city to visit the Vivid Festival and end the year with a Christmas Party.

We also spent a very lazy weekend at "Rose Cottage" near Gerringong.

I would like to thank the member of Pinnaroo and especially the executive for another successful year.

Stephen Shaw
Chairperson
Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

The membership of Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship has grown over the past 12 months to 22 members. Bob Mathews, a long serving member, moved to the Central Coast in September 2015. Whilst most of our members are involved in support of Cumberland Gang Show, we continually seek to expand our membership base. Our members have all met the requirement to attain a Working with Children Check and to have their approval number recorded on their membership record. Oversight of Scoutlink member records has been difficult as the Fellowship only has access to the records of members with a Primary Appointment to the Fellowship. The records of members with a Secondary Appointment can't be seen.

This year has seen the culmination of efforts to create our own webpage. It is hosted by the Cumberland Gang Show Site and can be found at:

www.fellowship.gangshow.asn.au

As well as participating in the 2015 season of Cumberland Gang Show, Fellowship members attended the Region Awards Dinner at Wentley Leagues in October and provided service to Cumberland Gang Show by catering for the Gang Show Training Day on 28 February. Planning has continued for the support of the 50th Anniversary of Cumberland Gang Show in 2019.

Our social program included a dinner at Club Merrylands in May to celebrate Rob Provins 90th Birthday; a very successful show recovery dinner at the German/Austrian Club Cabramatta in July; an outing to historical Circular Quay and the Sunken Gardens at Paddington in September; an enjoyable end of year outing to Cockatoo Island; a very pleasant dinner preceding our February business meeting and a days outing in March to the Bradman Museum at Bowral followed by lunch and a wine tasting at Mittagong. Many of these activities included 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 and the Region. Some members provided support to the Region Jamborette, AJ2016, and to Dragon Skin.

Special thanks to my fellow members of the Executive: Secretary Jeanie Wood, Treasurer Evelyn Wilson, Vice President Alex Van Rooy 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 2016-2017.

Lyall Wood
Chairperson
Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship

HAWKESBURY BLACK HORSE

- Bunnings BBQ fundraisers.
- 2 social nights held alternative months to meetings at various restaurant and clubs.
- Hawkesbury show Scout display had the climbing wall from Wilberforce and is planned to be painted with jungle theme.. Paid site fees and participated on roster
- 6 x Members participated in Anzac March at Richmond. NOTE: Ted was marching for the 65th time (65 yrs)

- Donated Fellowship steel cupboard now painted and in Richmond Scout Hall.
- St George Day attended by 1 x member
- Arndell College 4 x members attended with climbing wall from Wilberforce.
- Founders Day Activity
- AGM and investiture of Phil
- JOTA/JOTI
- Christmas get together Macquarie Park
- Carols at Hanna Park
- Sponsorship for a cub to go to Cuboree
- Participating with Oakville Venturers in planning for Jamborette
- Climbing wall to be repainted and relocated for cub use.

ALAN CLIFFORD OVERTON AM

Alan Overton joined 1st Granville Cub Scouts as an 8 year old in early 1945 just before the end of World War 2. He continued to be a member of the association as a Scout, Senior Scout and Rover with the Group.

He has continued his association with 1st Granville for the past 71 years and is still a member of the Granville Old Boys which meet annually at the group headquarters in Glen Street Granville.

Alan was a mover and shaker in the construction of the 1st Mays Hill Scout Hall in Monterey Street South Wentworthville. He helped in fundraising and as an employee obtained financial assistance from James Hardie. When the hall was officially opened in 1976 by Alderman Devlin from Holroyd Council, Alan was the Group President. A plaque is still on the wall at the hall celebrating the opening even though the group has long since ceased to exist.

In June 1994, Alan agreed to take on the position as Area President of Cumberland Area (now Greater Western Sydney Region) and gave excellent service in the role until February 2016 when he retired due to ill health. In the past 22 years Alan has not missed seeing Cumberland Gang Show and is looking forward to seeing many more.

Alan had a soft spot for extension scouting he was responsible for the group starting in Arthur Street Granville and with the financial assistance of James Hardie and Parramatta Leagues Club he assisted with modification of the hall to take wheelchairs and make access easier for the scout members. Alan took on the role of Group Treasurer in 1997 and held that role for seven years.

As if he was not busy enough with his other community obligations, Alan became the New South Wales Branch Vice President in 1999 and held this position for 17 years before retiring in February 2016. He was elected as a Branch Life Councilor in 2004.

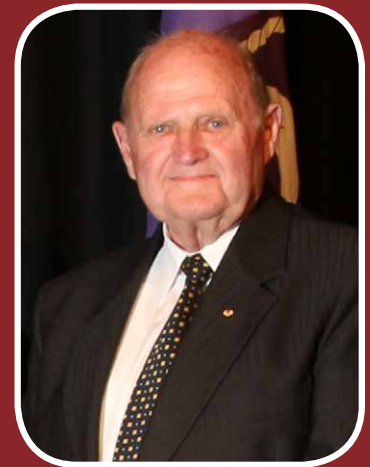
Alan was recognised for his services to scouting in 2004 by being awarded the National Presidents Award. He was awarded Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honors List in 1994 for "Services to the Parramatta Rugby League Football Club and to the Community". He was further honoured with an Australia Medal (AM) in the Australia Day Honors List in 2004 for "Service through a range of sports clubs and other Organisations".

His other great loves after Scouting is the Parramatta Rugby League Football Club (EELS) and Parramatta Leagues Club Limited where he was the President from 1985 to 2009 – 24 years.

At one stage, in the past few years, Alan was involved with 29 organisations and has been recognised with 16 awards from non scouting groups.

The Greater Western Sydney Region Executive Committee has decided to set up an award in the name of "Alan Overton AM" which will be awarded each year to supporters, committee members or leaders in GWS and can be nominated by anyone and a decision will be made by a committee of 3 people.

Thanks for your tremendous service to Scouting and we wish you well in the future.



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

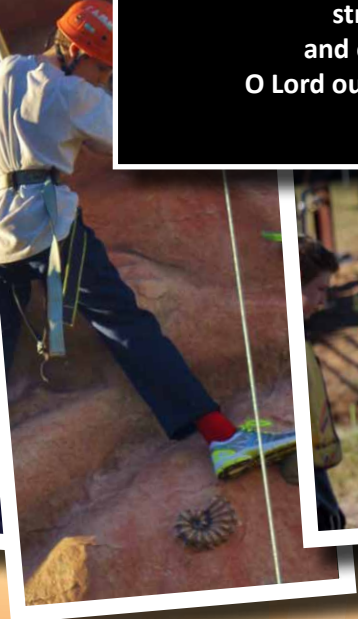
1st Cambridge Park Scout Group
1st Emu Plains Scout Group
1st Erskine Park Scout Group
Nepean Rover Crew
1st South Penrith Scout Group
1st St Marys Scout Group

Scout Fellowships

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

Thanks to the many Leaders and Youth Members who contributed
to the photography of this publication.

Annual Report designed by Matt Thompson



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

Scouts Australia - NSW
 Greater Western Sydney Region

6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills NSW 2153
 P: (02) 9639 2488 E: gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au

www.greaterwestscouts.com.au