



THE  
ADVENTURE  
BEGINS

Scouts Australia, NSW  
Greater Western Sydney Region  
72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report  
April 2018 - March 2019



Scouts  
NSW

[www.greaterwestscouts.com.au](http://www.greaterwestscouts.com.au)

# GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION

## Blue Mountains District

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

## Blacktown District

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

## Hawkesbury District

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

## Hills District

1st Balcombe Heights Scout Group  
1st Baulkham Hills Rover Crew  
1st Castle Hill Scout Group  
1st Dural Scout Group  
1st Kellyville Scout Group  
1st Rouse Hill Scout Group  
2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Group  
2nd Baulkham Hills Rover Crew  
2nd Baulkham Hills 'Outdoor' Rover Crew  
2nd Castle Hill Scout Group  
2nd Castle Hill Rover Crew  
Castle Hill (Coptic) Scout Group  
West Pennant Hills Valley Scout Group

## Holroyd District

1st Granville Scout Group  
1st Greystanes 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 Winston Hills Scout Group  
2nd Northmead Scout Group  
Kings Langley Rover Crew  
Western Sydney (BLIA) Scout Group

## Penrith City District

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

## 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 in this publication.

Annual Report designed by *Matt Thompson*

# Greater Western Sydney Region Team 2018-2019

REGION PRESIDENT	Ross Grove
REGION CHAIRPERSON	Debbie Howlett
REGION TREASURER	Greg Brown
REGION COMMISSIONER	Neville Henderson OAM / David Stopps JP
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	David Stopps JP
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	Tony Dent
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	Geoff Henderson
REGION OFFICE ASSISTANTS	Kim Harris & Wendy Dimmock

## Region Commissioners

RC JOEY SCOUTS	Brian Zarth
RC CUB SCOUTS	Gabie Thompson
RC SCOUTS	Tracey Stopps
RC VENTURER SCOUTS	Brian Nelson
RC ROVERS	David Twist
RC ACTIVITIES	Mark Fell
RC ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT	Cassie Rec
RC COMMUNICATIONS & PR	Matt Thompson
RC INTERNATIONAL	Peter Nickl OAM
RC MEMBER SUPPORT	Carol Cope

## District Commissioners

DC BLACKTOWN	Ross Howlett
DC BLUE MOUNTAINS	Tony Dent (Acting) / Steve Wallace
DC HAWKESBURY	Phil Heinrich
DC HILLS	Terry Brooke
DC HOLROYD	Ron Brown
DC PARRAMATTA	Tracey Hansford
DC PENRITH CITY	Steve Wallace

## Region Patrons

Julie Owens MP  
Federal Member for Parramatta

Susan Templeman MP  
Federal Member for Macquarie

Ray Williams MP  
State Member for Castle Hill

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

# MINUTES FROM 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

### Minutes of the 71st Annual Report Presentation of the Region Council held at Bundilla Scout Camp on Sunday 27th May, 2018 commencing at 2.30pm.

THE SCOUT PRAYER: Led by Steve Wallace - District Commissioner (Penrith City)

PRESENT: Region President Ross Grove, Region Chair Debbie Howlett and others as per attendance book.

WELCOME: Mr Ross Grove, Region President welcomed all those present.

ALAN OVERTON AM HISTORY - Read by Tony Dent - Deputy Region Commissioner

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALAN OVERTON AM AWARD AWARDEE: Neville Henderson OAM, Region Commissioner

RECIPIENT: Suzanne Cornell

CITATION: Read by Ann Pounder, Honorary Region Commissioner

PRESENTATION OF AWARD: Alan Overton AM

APOLOGIES - Read by David Stopps - Deputy Region Commissioner

#### 1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting of the Region Council held on Sunday, 7th May, 2017 were circulated in the Annual Report and adopted.

MOVED: Steve Wallace    SECONDED: Carol Cope

#### 2. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

##### Financial Statement

Presented by Greg Brown - Region Treasurer

##### Annual Report

Presented by Neville Henderson OAM, Region Commissioner

MOVED the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statement

Mrs Debbie Howlett, Chair GWS Region Executive

SECONDED the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statement

Gabie Thompson, Region Commissioner Cub Scouts

##### ADDRESS BY:

Mr Ray Williams MP - State Member for Castle Hill, Minister for Multiculturalism/Disability Services

Mr Mark Taylor MP - State Member for Seven Hills

Ms Julia Finn MP - State Member for Granville

#### 3. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

REGION PRESIDENT

Mr Ross Grove

REGION CHAIR

Mrs Debbie Howlett

TRUSTEES

The Region Commissioner

REGION TREASURER

Mr Greg Brown

Mr Peter Stieme

Mr David Stopps

MOVED: Terry Brooke    SECONDED: Tony Dent

#### 4. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF REGION EXECUTIVE

Mr Peter Stieme

Mr Lyall Wood AM RFD

Mrs Melissa Harding

Mr Paul Roach

Mrs Patricia Shaw

Mr David Stopps

Mr Michael Majoor

Mr Glenn Duncan

Mrs Pamela Garske

Mrs Margo Dalziel

Mr Peter Nickl OAM

Mr Craig Kennedy

Ms Melanie Dimmock



## REGION COMMISSIONER

It gives me great pleasure to present the 72nd Annual Report of Greater Western Sydney Region. This is my first report as your Region Commissioner.

I would like to thank Neville Henderson for his nine years as Region Commissioner and wish him and Joy all the best in their travels.

Our Region consists of seven districts, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Hills, Holroyd, Parramatta and Penrith. We keep in regular contact with the State Members of Parliament, the Federal Members of Parliament and the various Mayors and a number of the councilors as they are the people who can help the region and groups.

I would like to first welcome our new groups in the Region, Castle Hill Coptic and 1st Rouse Hill. I would also like to mention that some groups have opened some new sections with 2 new Joeys units, 3 new Venturer Units and 1 more Rover crew with more to come. We also had a merger of 2 groups 1st Whalan and 1st North Mount Druitt who have decided to change their name to 1st Nurrangy. Congratulations to them and I look forward to working with them.

We have some exciting times ahead with the introduction of the youth program. Yes, some people will struggle but we are working behind the scenes on a number of things to help. Please remember your region team are here to support you. We have extended our team to help make it work for you, as we are all about support.



We are about to appoint a Region Development Officer (RDO). The person we are looking for will be developing our groups and also helping the groups we have to grow. It is a fulltime position with some flexible hours. They will work out of Bundilla and work very closely with Geoff Henderson and myself. They will be visiting schools, groups and community events. They will put Scouts on display in shopping center's and any place families go.

We have had a new event for our region this year. It was called Cuborette. Gabie Thompson, Region Commissioner Cubs and her team did a marvelous job. They had over 450 people attend and from all reports it was a great success BRAVO to Gabie and her team.

Scouts Section under the leadership of Tracey Stopps, Region Commissioner Scouts also had another great year at the Jamborette with over 1200 attending from as far ACT but I would be in trouble if I did not mention the 2 great leaders behind Tracey, Robin Garrett and Col Nicholas. I have heard Tracey say on a number of occasions she could not do it all without these two Honorary Commissioners. a big BRAVO to the Scouts.

I would also like to thank our Rovers for a number of things this year. We had over 60 rovers come along to Bundilla to attend Bundy Moot. This was a service moot with some Rovers coming for the weekend and some for an hour. We got so much done! It was great to see what they could do. The Rovers also ran a Roventure for our Venturers in our region. For the first one, attendance numbers where good. But I know they have done their Plan Do Review for next year.

Once again we had a successful Adult Recognition Awards Presentation at Wentworthville Leagues Club in October. We had a record attendance with so many people wanting to see to see their friends, colleagues and peers recognised for their service to scouting. Thanks to Region President, Ross Grove, Debbie Howlett and Neville Henderson for assisting with the presentation of the awards. We have again booked the venue for our 2019 Awards Dinner in October.

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 Greg Brown who keeps an eye on the finances and budget of the region. Further, I must recognize our Region Scribe Pam Garske, who keeps a record of our meetings, and our various delegates who regularly attend the Region Executive each month. I am enjoying working 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 and also for Anne’s patience.

To Kim and Wendy, our excellent Office team. I am sure you will join with me in thanking them for the time they spend keeping the region running as efficiently as it does. We couldn’t do without them as part of our team.

Finally, thanks to my deputies, Geoff Henderson, Tony Dent and my newest Glenn Connor, for the assistance they give me to ensure the region runs so smoothly. Good to know that I have good people to help me.

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

*David Stopps JP*  
Region Commissioner



## REGION CHAIRPERSON

2018 has come and gone and all of us have contributed to positive Scouting experiences within our Region and beyond! The year saw a new Region Commissioner David Stopps take over the helm and continued positive growth in our numbers. Many of you attended Sectional activities throughout the year and displayed our uniform proudly at community events; we need to continue to do so and this will help contribute to our growing numbers and market our programs to the youth in the broader society. We should all be proud of the part we play whether it be in leading our youth, our leaders or our lay members; all help to make our Region what it is – a major player in the life of young people within Greater Western Sydney.



Let’s embrace our Founder’s message:

“Look wide, and even when you think you are looking wide – look wider still!”

This is what we all need to do in GWS to propel us forward into 2019 and beyond!

Yours in Scouting

*Debbie Howlett*  
Region Chairperson



## DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER - DEVELOPMENT

Those of you who know me well, will know that I prefer to look forward rather than behind. However, it is important that periodically we look at what we have achieved in the past year, to celebrate the wins and learn from the things that haven't gone to plan.

In 2018/19, we have maintained our focus on our two key areas Growth in Youth membership and Growth in Leader membership. As you can see, our strategy has not changed in GWS.



This is important to ensure the best for our members, and that Scouting flourishes for many years to come. The good news is that we have grown once again in Greater Western Sydney, and I wanted to thank everyone for making Scouting a better organisation.

### Greater Western Sydney – Vision 2021 Launch

Not even fallen trees and a total power outage at Bundilla Scout Camp could stop our Group, District and Region Leadership at the kick off of the Vision 2021 program in early February 2019.

On Day 1, sixty of the Region's leadership met to address two of the key opportunities that GWS Region will be taking advantage of over the next three years; Retention of Youth and Adult members; and Recruitment of Youth and Adult members.

Addressed by our Chief Commissioner, Neville Tomkins, the group were reminded that "GWS is sitting on a goldmine of opportunity as 100,000 new households are being built between now and 2021 in the Greater Western Sydney Region".

The leadership team workshopped ideas and developed their individual Group, District & Region plans for the

next three years. These plans are now ready to support Groups and give clarity to the things we all need to focus on.

Susan Templeman MP, Member for Macquarie, also addressed the audience, sharing her insights on where Scouting can be more effective in community engagement. Her clear message was that we should get closer to our local members and don't assume they know what Scouting is. They can't help our Groups if they don't know where we are, what we do or what support we need.



The end of the day's formal program was facilitated by Belinda Francis, who shared with us a new initiative called LeaderBuild that will support our ability to attract and recruit high calibre leaders to support youth growth in Greater Western Sydney. We eagerly await the rollout of this program early this year.

Day two began where day one left off, with the Group Chairpersons and Treasurers joining us to discuss challenges and opportunities in the effective running of a Parent Support Committee. Overwhelmingly the message is that we need to communicate more effectively across the Region. Not more communication, but better communication.

Chief Commissioner, Neville Tomkins shared his reflections at the end of weekend, offering his support: "There is a significant opportunity in Greater Western Sydney to deliver on the new strategic plan of Scouts NSW. You will receive the support you need to assist you in realising our aspirations in Greater Western Sydney".



**2019 – The Year of Support**

Looking to 2019, the year ahead is all about how we support our Groups.

New ways of sharing information across the Region are being developed in the form of dedicated Facebook Groups ensuring there is an appropriate coverage of information sharing across formal and informal networks. This will speed up the sharing of information and remove bottlenecks in our formal structure.

I am also pleased to share that we have a new Region Development Officer position under recruitment. This role is being recruited specifically to work with Schools and Community Groups to support recruitment of Youth and Leaders across our Region. As a paid role, we are pleased to have the support of NSW Branch in funding this critical position to support our Groups.

Lastly, I would say thanks to the many leaders that take the time so share their thoughts with me on how we get better as a Region. Often, leaders email me or chat with me about their ideas and I am always happy to take feedback. The more ideas that are shared, the more chance we can solve some of our challenges.



“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.” Anon

Yours in Scouting  
*Geoff (Beagle) Henderson*  
 Deputy Region Commissioner  
 (Development)



**DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER  
 - YOUTH PROGRAMS**

The last year the whole movement has been preparing for change, since 1973 we have only reviewed each section and never all together.

In 2012 we started the national review of the whole Youth Program, and last year we implemented “the Adventure Begins”, this was a step for all to take audit of what we do and how we do it, does it line up with our purpose of Scouting, and were we achieving the outcome we strived for.

So in early 2018, we called for Pioneer groups to trial the New Youth Program, in GWS the call was answered by the following Groups

- 1st Carlingford
- 1st Toongabbie
- 2nd Baulkham Hills
- 2nd Baulkham Hills Rover Crew
- 2nd Baulkham Hills Outdoor Rover Crew

These Groups are using the New Program and with their feedback the subtle changes that needed to be made, so the end product would be ready for everyone.

1st of April 2019 was the official Launch of the Youth Program “One Program One Journey”.

So, from 5yo to 26yo the program is continuous: that achievement pathways are recognised and core skills of Scouting are our focus; that outdoors is where we do it; no longer is it an award scheme, but based on personal progression and personal goals, Doing Our Best.

It is exciting as we now start to see more Groups of GWS express interest in moving to the New Program, encouraging Youth Lead and Adult Supported programs and activities.

The Old Program will be phased out over the next 3 years, and it is the individual choice of the youth if they stay to finish in the old Program or transition to the New Program.

GWS will make great efforts to engage all our Groups as quickly as we can, and see the growth of the Youth by achieving their aims.

*Tony Dent*  
 Deputy Region Commissioner  
 (Youth Programs)



## SECTION REPORTS

# JOEY SCOUTS

2018 was a great year for Joey Scouts in Greater Western Sydney Region. It was a year of growth, but there is still plenty of room for improvement. We started off with 205 Joeys, we enrolled another 247, had 97 go up to cubs, but sadly we also had 95 that resigned from the movement. This leaves us with 269, that's an increase of 64. While it's a great result, we still have a long way to go.

The 2018 Joey Fun Day "Joeys in Space" was well attended and supported by the region activities teams, cubs, Gang Show, Science team and bases run by the districts. Once again Outback Steakhouse Penrith provided lunch for the Joeys and helpers. Numbers were down slightly from previous years due to the timing with the Cubs and Joeys region water fun day.

Joey Scouts continue to be part of Cumberland Gang Show's Comet Cast. The theme this year was "Feel the Beat" and our comet cast definitely did leave an awesome impression on the audience. They ran 8 shows during the July school holidays. It was great to see them supported by so many Joey Scout mobs sitting in the audience. Thank you to cast & crew of Cumberland for providing a fantastic opportunity to our Joey Scouts.

This year 1st Carlingford was selected to start trialling the new Youth Program. From all reports, it has



been a great experience for all those involved and with the passage of time more groups will transition onto the new program. The Youth Program provides a more comprehensive program for Joeys, we are looking forward to the wider range of experiences it will bring into the Joey Section.



This year we saw the introduction of a wider age range for Joey Scouts. Joeys may join at 5 years of age after starting school and then only need to progress to cubs after turning 8 years old. Across NSW we have 133 Joeys under 6 years of age, this includes 17 in the Greater Western Sydney Region. The wider age range means that Joey Leaders need to adjust their program to cater for the larger age gap.

This year we continue to recognise and invest in our leaders. I would like to Congratulate Isabella Blow, Grainne Bolland, Simone Chaffey, Krysta Jarvis, Vanessa Muscat, Anthony Stathakis, Lai Fong Teng, Christopher Thomas, Kim Thomas and Joanne Tomkins on Achieving their Certificates of Adult Leadership. Congratulations also to Laura Crump, Karina Wardle and Katherine





Lockman for achieving their Wood Badges. Special Congratulations to Sandra Knox on receiving the Silver Wattle Award, Alasdair McLean, Jodie Shaw, and Linda Vella on receiving the Meritorious Service Award.

In GWS, Joey Scouts enjoy a wealth of support from the Region Council, Region Executive and all the District Councils, I have been humbled to hear the positive attitude and encouragement we get from them. Thank you.

I would also like to give a big Hop Hop Hop to my Joey Scouts GWS Region Team, Leonie Plummer (Parramatta), Alice Gravina (Hills), Valerie Lockman (Blacktown/Holroyd), Caroline Watts (Hawkesbury), Jodie Shaw (Penrith). You have all been fantastic. You have all stepped up to the mark, and given me great confidence that the Districts are in good hands. I would also like to thank Jill Heath, our State Commissioner Joey Scouts. Jill has been a great supporter behind the scenes and despite being at the top, the creativity hasn't stopped and we look forward to next year's NSW State Konara.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remember and reflect on the service given to Joeys by the late Vicky Ramsay at 1st Northmead Joeys. Vicky stepped up to take control of the new Joey Mob at 1st Northmead and sadly passed away last year.

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. BRAVOOO!

Yours in Scouting

Brian Tarth (Magpie)  
Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)



## Promise Challenge 2018-2019

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1st Balcombe Heights</b><br>Lucy McGinty  | <b>1st North Rocks</b><br>Tegan Powell  |
| <b>1st Carlingford</b><br>Keira Stephens<br>Shiori Tan<br>Chong Shan Yu                      | <b>1st Oakville</b><br>Anna Meddens   |
| <b>1st Hawkesbury</b><br>Arthur Jenkinson  | <b>1st Parramatta</b><br>Zoey Roles   |
| <b>1st Kellyville</b><br>Lucas McKeon<br>Zach Whitbread                                      | <b>1st Quakers Hill-Doonside</b><br>Ethan Thomas                                      |
| <b>1st Murray Farm</b><br>Caelan Govender<br>Sithuka Kannangara<br>Cara Turco<br>Aiden Liles | <b>1st Winston Hills</b><br>Hugo Attwood<br>Tyler Bisson<br>Samuel Job<br>Tara Walker |



# CUB SCOUTS

The 2018 – 2019 Scout year was another busy and successful time for the Cub Scout section. I am very pleased and proud of the activities and events on offer for Cubs across the Region, Districts and Groups, which are well supported by all in the Cub section.

The **Region Palanee** was held on Friday 4th May 2018. It was a wonderful evening with forty Cub Scout Leaders joining the Region Seonee team at Bundilla for a great night of program sharing, friendship, fun and games. The theme of the night was ‘Space’ and with a play on words (or should I say dates) the event was called ‘May the fourth be with you’. The Region Seonee team did a fantastic job of putting together a Cub Program for the Leaders to participate in and the skies were clear for star gazing. This was followed by a social, tea/coffee and cake and a visit from the Region Commissioner, Neville Henderson. A huge thank you to all the Cub Leaders for attending. A great big thank you to all that assisted on the night including, Jeff Hook, Michelle McLean, Ian Lutz, Jim Abbott, Andrew Selmes and Robert Rigby. The night was a great success.

On Saturday 26 May 2018, the Cub section ran a **Youth Helpers Course** at Bundilla with seven participants (6 Venturers and 1 Duke of Ed participant) completing the course. The Programme was packed with a mixture of fun and games together with instruction and learning. The feedback received in our review session was positive. Thanks to the team that assisted me on the day; including Brian Nelson, Di Quan, Ian Lutz and Jeff Hook. We also enjoyed a special visit from Neville Henderson the Region Commissioner and David Stopps the Region Commissioner Elect.

The biggest event on the 208-2019 Cub Region calendar was the **Cub Fun Day at Jamborette**. This event was held on Sunday 10th June 2018 at the Region Jamborette,



with the theme ‘Time to fast forward’. The Cub section had 352 participants on the day which included 241 Cubs. The weather held off for the first part of the day, which turned into light showers scattered over the afternoon. The weather did not dampen the spirits of the Cubs who were able to participate in a range of exciting activities including caving, international, fire awareness, archery, ‘big’ games, sensory training, making grass heads and much, much more. All 10 ½ year old Cubs were sent personalised letters from the Region Scout Youth Council inviting them to attend the whole weekend camping with their Troops as a Try Scouts activity, with a good number of Cubs taking up this challenge.

A great big thank you goes to the District leaders and their helpers for designing and running an activity base for each District during the day. I would also like to thank Tricia Shaw from Pinnaroo Fellowship, Mary-Jane Allan and Peter & Lesley Tamsett from Blue Mountains Fellowship for their assistance on the registration desk on the day. Thanks to Anne Thompson for assisting on the Holroyd base all day, to Matt Thompson and Steve Wallace for their assistance with the admin tasks of designing and printing the Cub Day passports, printing wristbands, and packing bags with badges etc. Thanks also to Kim and Wendy at the Region Office for their patience and perseverance in sorting out the online registrations and E1s, which was the first time the Cub section have used electronic E1s in the EMS system, and to the Region Rovers for their assistance with manning the front gate and parking directions for the visitors on the day. Your assistance was greatly appreciated, and the day would not have been a success without you all.

Our thanks and appreciation go to the Scout Section, to Tracey Stopps Region Commissioner Scouts, the Region Mindari Team, and to the Region Scout Youth Council for inviting and accommodating the Cubs attendance and participation on the day. This was truly a successful cross-section, all Region event. B-R-A-V-O!

The first ever **Region Cub Youth Council** was held during the lunch break at Jamborette. Nine Cubs were in attendance; Alex, Rhiannon, Gwen, Sadie, Cameron,



James, Riley, Benjamin and Kate, all representing the Cubs from across the Region. Many topics were discussed including The Adventure Begins, Pack Councils and Plan>Do>Review. We reviewed the Cub Day at Jamborette and asked if the Cubs would do anything differently or could it be improved on. There were a lot of great ideas and good participation by all. The one thing that was agreed on was that the day was too short and that they too wanted a big Region camp for all Cubs to attend and for the Scouts to be involved by assisting with and running bases for the Cubs to enjoy. The Region Cub Camp idea was something to be further explored and developed during 2018.

The annual **State Campfire** for the Cub section was held again during the months of July and August with many Cub Packs and Districts from across the Region holding campfires. The Hills District, kindly invited me along to attend their campfire, held at Bundilla. The night was pouring with rain, however this did not dampen their spirits or put a stop to the evening. The campfire was moved indoors, where a very clever Cub Leader improvised and created a realistic indoor 'fire'. A great night was had by all, with over 100 in attendance. All Cubs that participated within the Region, earned the State Campfire blanket badge.

The **3rd NSW State Palaver** was held from August 17 to 19, 2018 at Camp Cottermouth in the ACT. The theme of the event was 'Running with the Pack'. There were 180 Cub Leaders from across the State, including a number from ACT and one from South Australia, in attendance. GWS Region had 27 Leaders attend, which was a great achievement. I arranged for a Coach to transport the leaders from Bundilla to Canberra and return, which made the long trip a lot more bearable and added to the fun. Although the weather was freezing cold, the program was not affected, and bases went ahead as planned.

Each Region ran a base for the participants to experience. GWS base was 'Our Heritage'. A huge thank you to all that helped with the preparations from writing the program, collecting resources and running the program, in particular Jeff Hook, Tricia Shaw, Ian Lutz and Joe Attard (Assistant State Commissioner for Heritage). Thank you to all GWS Leaders that attended.

On Saturday 1st September 2018, the Region ran a **Cub Scout Leadership Course** at 1st Winston Hills Scout hall. Thank you to Group Leader Shane Selwood for helping us out by providing us use of the hall and for Matt Thompson that arranged for us to borrow the Girl Guide hall next door, providing additional space. We had 62 Cubs registered, with 60 Cubs attending on

the day. I would like to thank everyone that helped out the Region Seeonee team on the day, your assistance was greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank the catering team on the day, led by Matt & Meagan Thompson, Anne & Paul Thompson and Suzanne Cornell.

In October and November, Cub Packs participated in the **State Out and About** activity. With the assistance of their Leaders, Cub Scouts were involved in planning their own adventures, brainstorming where they would like to go and what they would like to do as a group, out in public in their uniform and usually by public transport. Hawkesbury District Cubs travelled to Bondi to visit Sculptures by The Sea and Penrith City Cubs were Out and About at the Penrith City Real Festival, where the whole District ran several activities for the local Community. It was great to see so many Cubs taking part. Well done to all that participated.

On 27 October 2018, GWS Cubs held their second **Region Cub Youth Council** for the year, at Bundilla. The eight Cubs that attended, were representing Cubs from within their District and from across the Region. These Cubs participated in and assisted with the Region Cub planning for 2019 and in particular, the planning of the Region Cub Camp that was an idea from the June Region Cub Youth Council.

The youth of the Region Cub Youth Council selected four representatives to attend the State Cub Youth Council which was held on Saturday 17 November 2018, at Scouts NSW State Office in Sydney Olympic Park, which also saw our Country Region representatives joining the meeting by video conference. Congratulations to all Cubs that represented their Districts and to those that went on to represent the Region, well done to all!

The **State Cub Scout Commissioner's Challenge** is open to all leaders in the Cub section and is awarded by the State Commissioner Cubs in November of each year. To achieve this award, leaders must be able to demonstrate that they incorporate and run at least 15 key elements into their Cub Scout programme over a 12-month period. In 2018, 14 Cub Scout Leaders from GWS achieved this award and were presented with their uniform badge. Well done and congratulations on your achievement!

On Saturday 2 March 2019, the first **Cub Scout Leadership Course** for 2019 was held at Bundilla Scout Camp. This course is proving very popular with registrations reaching 78 Cubs. We have found that we can only cater for 60 Cubs on any one course and decided to cap the numbers at 60. With the decision to cap numbers, we will be offering an additional third

course later in 2019. With so many Cubs attending, we need at least 14 Leaders to assist in delivering the course. My sincere thanks to my all the leaders that helped out on the day. We couldn't have done it without you - I hope you enjoyed the day. Catering for all the hungry Cubs and Leaders was well under control as usual, by the Pinnaroo Fellowship Team under the guidance of Tricia Shaw. Thank you for ensuring we were all fed! The Cubs participated enthusiastically in all the sessions and activities and gave us some very good feedback in our Forum session and 'review' of the day.

The annual **Joey/Cub Fun day on the water** was held at Lake Parramatta on Saturday 9 March 2019. It was very pleasing to see so many Cubs participating in this wonderful event which was once again run by the Region Water Activities Team, led by Tracey Hansford. I attended the day assisting with some of the land activities. It was extremely pleasing to see the large number of Cubs that participated on the day. The activities and bases were well planned out, covering off a number of requirements of the Cub Canoeing Level 1 and parts of Level 2 badge. The rain towards the end of the day did not stop the Cubs as they were having too much fun getting wet!

I am very pleased to report that two new Cub Packs were opened during the 2018-2019 period and that the Cub Scout numbers in the Region have increased again on last year's numbers with currently over 720 registered Cubs. I truly believe that this is a result of good leaders providing interesting and good programming, listening to the youth members through Cub Youth Councils and having the Cubs involved and engaged in the program. I would like to thank each and every Cub leader for the many hours and commitment that you put into the growth and development of our youth. Keep up the good work.

I would like to congratulate the 47 Cub Scouts that have achieved the peak award, the Grey Wolf Award, over the past twelve months. Their achievements are to be commended. I am sure that without the work of dedicated Cub Leaders behind them, these achievements would not be possible. One, two, three WOLF!

The **(New) Youth Program** continues to be rolled out across the State and the Region. It is good to see the Cubs and Cub Leaders taking on new challenges and embracing the changes. During this 2019-2020, we will also see more Cub Packs moving over to the new Youth Program, some very exciting times ahead!

We have many fantastic activities planned for the 2019-2020 year for both Cub Scouts and Cub Leaders of the Region, including the inaugural Region Cuborette planned for April 2019 and the 7th NSW Cuboree to be held in January 2020. I look forward to working closely together with the Region Seonee team to continue to build a fun, exciting, adventurous and engaging program for all Cub Scouts of the Region.

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



## Grey Wolf Awards April 2018 - March 2019

### 1st Balcombe Heights

Danuli Kankanamge  
Luke Uidam  
Max Schwable

### 1st Blackheath

Will Touhill

### 1st Blaxland

Rupert Hill  
Rhys Camilleri  
Joel Oakey  
Jed Berben  
Mikayla Mercieca  
Toby Baker  
Kynan Lark  
Macy McStay

### 1st Cambridge Park

Emily Snookes  
Harrysen Dragomirovic  
Kirrileigh McDonald

### 1st Carlingford

Reuben Matthews  
Jason Ong  
Amanda Khor

### 1st Castle Hill

Sadie Pennington

### 1st Dural

Emily Symons  
Kristina Taylor

### 1st Ermington

Rhys Fourro-Huggett  
Annalies Marsh  
Michael Hughes

### 1st Hawkesbury

Nelson McKinley  
Cory Herbert  
Sarah Higgins

### 1st Kellyville

Eric Burakowski  
Cooper Gravina

### 1st Kings Langley

Domenic Gallagher

### 1st North Mt DrUITT

Wayne Fisher

### 1st North Rocks

Makayla Furst

### 1st Oakville

Andrew Mitchell  
Zoe Allen

### 1st South Penrith

Lily Uren  
Alexander Smith

### 1st Toongabbie

Lauren Aquilina  
Zachariah Kassis  
Raven O'Bryan

### 1st Westmead

Jaswant Yuvaraj

### 1st/2nd Blacktown

Gabriel Paul

### 2nd Castle Hill

Flynn Mogilin  
Valerie Jiang  
Gino Yan  
Cindy Wu

### 2nd Northmead

Ariana Dean

# SCOUTS



Well what a big year we have had! I saw a lot of smiling people. We had over 1200 people over the weekend including cubs for the Cub Day. I would like to thank everyone who helped deliver such a great event. It wouldn't run without you all. We had other regions join us too, such as, Sydney North and South Coast and Tablelands, Hume and ACT. Our Jamboreette is becoming well known for its bases and the fun we all have! We trialed an 'Out of Region' District this year and it worked very successfully.

This year the gateway competition was fierce! The closest we've had in years! Congratulations to the winners of the gateways:

Traditional: 1st Balcombe Heights (third year running)  
 Themed: 1st Oakville  
 Scouts Choice: 1st Glossodia

We had a vast array of activities but the scouts voted and the top three were:

1st place: Archery  
 2nd place: Cinderella Ops  
 3rd place: Battleships



**State Rally** was run at Cataract this year and the format was completely different. It was a light weight stationary camp. Where the scouts stayed on one RAC for sleeping but moved around throughout the day all over Cataract. RAC 1 was run by GWS, Hunter and Coastal and North Coast. We had a great time with our theme of Witches and Wizards!

The winners of Greater Western Sydney were:

1st place: 2nd Baulkham Hills (706 Wizard of Oz)  
 2nd place: 1st Ermington (351 Panthers)  
 3rd place: 1st Erskine Park (171 Mystery)

2nd Baulkham Hills (706 Wizard of Oz) also came 3rd in the State!!! The first time in a long time that GWS has ranked in the top 3 of the state for Rally! BRAVO!!

Congratulations to these patrols! Thank you to all the patrols from Greater Western Sydney as you all put in an enormous amount of effort and you were all a credit to yourselves and your leaders. BRAVOOO!

I would like to give a special THANK YOU to all the Venturers, Rovers and Leaders who designed, built and ran the bases – without you it would not have been such a success. Our bases were extremely popular with all the patrols. I would also like to give a huge THANK YOU to Robin Garrett and Steve Wallace for their support and dedication in the lead up and throughout the event. Again the whole team are amazing.

I still believe our bases were award winning!! Most of the scouts I spoke to thought so as well. I will endeavour to get a 'Scouts Choice' award for next year! That is my project.

## AJ2019

Every 3 years we have this amazing camp called Jamboree. I am still amazed at how resilient the scouts are. They handled the lunar like terrain with enthusiasm and gusto. The leaders – well they may have faired differently. Screwing every single tent peg in was not what we expected when we were told the ground was hard. Drills bits broke, drills died, tents flew away, dust storms came for us every day, there was dirt and dust everywhere. But through all this the scouts had a ball. They loved every minute of the activities. They forged friendships with people from all over the world and discovered new things about themselves. The look on their faces when they came back to camp was something I wish all the parents could see – they would then know why we do what we do.

### Australian Scout Medallions

The last year has seen 13 Australian Scout Medallions being awarded to our scouts. The variety of leadership activities astounds me. Our scouts are starting to think outside the box which is a wonderful thing to see. B-R-A-V-O-O-O!!!



We also held our 1st Region Advanced Scout Leadership Course in a long time. It was a very successful weekend. We had 27 participants from all over the state. The furthest drove 8 and a half hours to attend!!!! All scouts that attended need to be congratulated on their behaviour and enthusiasm! I think the scouts had to most trouble with the fact they did not have to finish an activity to complete it. The learning was in participating. I hope they all enjoyed it as much as the leaders did.

The best part for most of them was the visit from the Galston RFS. They showed how leadership worked in a real life scenario but the best part was using the fire engine hoses for the massive water fight! Thank you Galston RFS for reinforcing the concepts we were delivering over the course!!!!

I would like to thank all the Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders and my faithful Advisors who have made my job fairly easy over the last year. I thank you all for your help, attendance and participation in all we do. You are all very much appreciated. B-R-A-V-O-O!!!

Yours in Scouting

Tracey (Wiangi) Stopps  
Region Commissioner (Scouts)



## VENTURER SCOUTS

The past year in the Venturer Section has seen many highlights throughout the Region. In the last year, 38 former GWSR Venturers have linked up into Rovers and are actively participating in Rover activities and 21 Queen's Scouts have been awarded.

Within the leadership team, I appointed Damon Love as Region Leader (Venturer Scouts) to assist me with the running of Venturers in the Region. Damon achieved his Queen's Scout in 2017 and spent a year volunteering in Europe and the UK before commencing university studies in Sydney in 2019. I also welcomed Erica Dilworth as District Leader (Venturer Scouts) Hills District. Erica is a Venturer leader at 1st North Rocks and has extensive experience as a leader and trainer in Guides and as a leader in the Venturer section.

Region Courses support the Queen's Scout program and continued with strong attendances - 39 across two Unit Management Courses, 25 at our Initiative Activity, 29 at our Leadership Course and 8 at our Environment Camp.

GWS Region continues to be represented on the State Venturer Scout Council. Lauren Barnett and Connor Kennedy completed a year as our representatives and Jack Hartley and Jesse Garofano appointed in 2019. They attend the Commissioners' Conferences at BPSC Pennant Hills and help implement initiatives developed by the State Council (such as the State Venturer Camp "Vertigo", the social media program, and a young leader development program).

Over Easter 2018, a large group of our Venturers attended Dragon Skin in Vulcan State Forest near Oberon.

A strong contingent of Venturer Scouts and linking Scouts from 1st Carlingford, 1st Dural, 1st Ermington, 1st Kellyville, 1st Kings Langley, 1st North Rocks, 1st Winston Hills, 1st/2nd Blacktown and 1st/2nd Merrylands performed on stage as cast members of the 2018 Cumberland Gang Show.

In June 2018, over 150 Venturer Scouts from the Region volunteered at the 41st Jamborette held at Cataract Scout Camp. Venturers provided a large number of the bases for the Scouts, as well as helping on the activities including abseil, caving, and the flying fox.



Jonathon Connor	1st/2nd Blacktown
Christopher Richard	1st Ermington
Alexander Toms	1st Castle Hill
Mikayla Ozols	1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's)
Connor Kennedy	1st South Penrith
Lucy Falvey	1st Dural
Michael Burrows	1st Carlingford
Timothy Marks	1st North Rocks
Chloe Harris	1st Oakville
Tessa Hitchins	1st Blaxland
Claire Dunning	1st Blaxland
Olivia	1st Kellyville
Ashleigh Allan	1st Oakville
Amy Mutton	1st Dural
Joshua Kahane	2nd Baulkham Hills
Ajit Pillai	1st Carlingford
Harrison Blow	1st Carlingford
Aidan Rowe	1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's)
Chloe Lawler	1st Dural
Kaitlin Strickland	1st North Rocks
Jarrold Matthews	1st South Penrith

In November, around 170 competitors and nearly 70 supporting adults attended "Harry Pottah and the League of Shadows" Waratah 2018. This year the event was in the form of a standing camp, based at Ingleside Scout Camp. We were honoured with the largest number of dignitaries to visit Waratah: Neville Tomkins Chief Commissioner of Scouts Australia NSW Branch, Lloyd Nurthen Youth Commissioner, David Jacobs State Commissioner (Venturer Scouts), Cameron Biggs Assistant State Commission (Venturer Scouts), David Stopps Region Commissioner Greater Western Sydney, Tracey Stopps Region Commissioner (Scouts) GWS and David Twist Region Commissioner (Rovers) GWS. Congratulations to "Voldy's Moldies", from 1st Blaxland who won the event this year.

Our Venturers and leaders were well represented at the Australian Jamboree at Tailem Bend in South Australia, as well as the New Zealand Venture "Illuminate" at Kaiwaka north of Auckland. Units in our Region also participated in their own major events: 2nd Baulkham Hills went to Vanuata in April 2018 for a mix of adventurer, service, sharing skills and commemorating ANZAC Day; 2nd Glossodia walked the Kings Trail in Sweden; and 1st South Penrith attended Jambori (that's the Irish National Jamboree) in July and August.



The GWS Rover section hosted Roventure at Camp Kuring-gai - the first time the event has been run in GWS for many years. About 70 Venturers, Rovers and leaders attended. A very successful weekend by all accounts and we hope to see this become a fixture on the GWS Venturing calendar.

We were saddened to hear that 2nd Blacktown Venturer Unit has suspended meetings for the time being. At the same time, three new Units have opened - 1st Toongabbie, 2nd Kings Langley and 1st Balcombe Heights. I look forward to working with them over the coming year.

I would like to thank my team - Damon Love assisting me in the Region, Matt Vella (Blacktown/Holroyd), Erica Dilworth (Hills South), Andrew Cross (Nepean/Blue Mountains) and Chris Lummis (Parramatta). Also to Lauren Barnett, Connor Kennedy, Jack Hartley and Jesse Garofana who represented us on the State Venturer Council.

I also thank all the Youth Members, Adult Leaders and Fellowship Members in the Region for making the Venturer youth program in our Region the success that it is. I look forward to continuing our work to open up the range of experiences available in the Venturer Scout section.

*Brian Nelson*  
Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts)



# ROVERS

In the last 12 months we have seen a large boost in attendance to events, Blacktown Rover Crew ran the biggest Moot in NSW over the 18/19 season, Dural Rover Crew has started and many wood badges have been awarded.

Recipients of the Wood Badge have been Mel Dimmock, Erin Walker, Chris Ward, Rachel Ewings and Jordan Longmuir.

Angus Boxall and Ayla Jones also received the Stan Bales Award.

In the next 12 months the RRC Executive plans on getting the rover treasury systems and finances back in place, growing the region activities program and increasing our program with the Venturers.

*Tim Gray*

Region Rover Council Chair 2019-20



# 2018 ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS



## SILVER KANGAROO – for Eminent Achievement and Exceptional Service

LEE, Peter ----- State Commissioner (Special Projects), NSW Branch  
 MCALPINE, Phyllis Ella----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Hawkesbury Cub Pack  
 STAPLES, Allan Kevin ----- Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Scout Troop  
 THOMPSON, Anne Marie----- Honorary Commissioner, Greater Western Sydney Region



## SILVER EMU – for Sustained and Exceptional Service

BROWN, Ronald Stanley----- District Commissioner, Holroyd District  
 REIBELT, Elizabeth Ann----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Erskine Park Cub Pack



## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – for Distinguished Service

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



## SILVER KOALA – for Distinguished Service

FELL, John Mark ----- Region Commissioner (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region  
 HORTON, Desmond Robin ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Troop  
 PAGE, Jennifer Anne----- Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills Cub Pack 'Rumbriah'



## SILVER WATTLE – for Outstanding Service

HANSFORD, Tracey Michele----- District Commissioner, Parramatta District  
 Knox, Sandra Lee----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Joey Mob  
 Rec, Cassie Bernadette ----- Region Commissioner (Adult Training & Development), GWS Region  
 Stewart, Meredith Christine ----- Region Leader(Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region



## OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD – for Outstanding Service

GANE, Philip John ----- Fellowship Chairman, Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship  
 Majoor, Michael Peter----- Group Treasurer, 1st Ermington Scout Group  
 Simpson, Douglas William----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show



## MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD – for Excellent Service

BOTTO, Josie ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Scout Troop  
 DOYLE, Joseph Bradley ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Cub Pack 'Barloo'  
 FLORES, Tristan James ----- Region Leader (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region  
 FOWLER, Trevor ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Greystanes Cub Pack  
 GIBBS, Michael ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Mt Druitt Scout Troop  
 GROSS, Benjamin James ----- Scout Leader, 1st Rydalmere Scout Troop  
 GROVE, Ross Michael ----- Region President, Greater Western Sydney Region  
 GRUNDY, Jane Pauline ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Springwood Venturer Unit  
 HEINRICH, Philip Bruce----- Group Leader, 1st Hawkesbury Scout Group  
 HIGGINS, Diane Catherine----- Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Scout Troop  
 HOLLOWAY, James Chay----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Venturer Unit  
 HOURD, Tracey ----- Group Secretary, 1st Castle Hill Scout Group  
 HRAST, Joanne Maree----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Scout Troop  
 HUDSON, Garry Donald ----- District Adviser, Hawkesbury District  
 LEE, Lyndall ----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show  
 MCLEAN, Alasdair Iain ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st North Mt Druitt Joey Mob  
 MYERS, David Keith----- Scout Leader, 1st Parramatta Scout Troop

NAPIER, Quentin Robert ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Cub Pack ‘Barloo’  
 SHAW, Jodie Michelle ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Joey Mob  
 SOLLUM, Grant Reginald ----- Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Scout Troop  
 THOMPSON, Meagan Elizabeth ----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show  
 VELLA, Linda Maree ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Joey Mob  
 WILLARD, Rex Howard ----- Scout Leader, 1st Toongabbie Scout Troop

**SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD – For Good Service**



ANDERSON, Neal Robert ----- Group Leader, 2nd Northmead Scout Group  
 ARROWSMITH, John Thomas ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Grose Vale Cub Pack  
 BRACKLEY, Shelley Naomi ----- Group Chairman, 1st Kellyville Scout Group  
 CARTER, Stephen John ----- Fellowship Member, Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship  
 COLVIN, Anthony Lionel ----- Group Trustee, 1st Castle Hill Scout Group  
 DAVIS, Andrew Ian ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blackheath Cub Pack  
 GROSS, Jacqueline Corin ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Rydalmere Cub Pack  
 HORMAN, Richard Ian ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Cub Pack ‘Kookaburra’  
 HUGHES, Stephen Charles ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Scout Troop  
 KAHN, Steven ----- Scout Leader, 1st Riverstone Scout Troop  
 LEES, Robert Johannes ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Westmead Scout Troop  
 LILES, Jenny ----- Group Leader, 1st Murray Farm Scout Group  
 MOLLE, Sara Ann ----- Group Secretary, 1st Hawkesbury Scout Group  
 MUNRO, Kylie Jane ----- Fellowship Member, Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship  
 MUNRO, Marilyn Daphne ----- Fellowship Member, Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship  
 NICHOLAS, Brett Colin ----- Scout Leader, 1st Greystanes Scout Troop  
 RUXTON, James William ----- Fellowship Member, Scout Heritage Scout Fellowship  
 SELMES, Andrew Denis ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Northmead Cub Pack  
 SHEPHERD, Jean Margaret ----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show  
 WICKS, John Walter ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Venturer Unit  
 WILLIAMS, Tiffany Louise ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 3rd Merrylands Cub Pack

**STAN BALES ROVER SERVICE AWARD**

**For exceptional and sustained Service to the Rover Section**

BOXALL, Angus ----- Rover, Nepean Rover Crew  
 JONES, Ayla ----- Rover, 2nd Castle Hill Rover Crew



## ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

In 2018 GWS organised the first Cub Scout Practical Supplement to be run at Bundilla in recent times. Since training locations have become more flexible we have jumped at the chance to plan more training to be run at Bundilla and at other locations in GWS this year. Thanks to all those Trainers, PLA's, and Wood Badge holders that continue to support new Leaders and Groups. By sharing your experience, coaching and mentoring, and motivating people to reach their goals you make a real difference.

Numbers of Leaders completing basic training are down by 50% across the Region with 43 GWS leaders attending a Basic Practical Supplement training weekend and 13 attending a Basic Outdoor Skills residential weekend. 35 Leaders have obtained their Certificate of Adult Leadership.

11 Leaders attended an Advanced Practical Supplement and 14 have been awarded the Wood Badge, a 40% increase from last year. In this the year of the Wood Badge we aim to increase completions even further.

### Wood Badge Centenary

<https://www.scout.org/WoodBadge100>

The idea from UK Scout Headquarters was to create a training syllabus for leaders to ensure a standard, quality and consistency for training.

A date was set for a pilot course to be held at Gilwell Park from the 8 – 19 September 1919.

The training course was organised to give the participants a sense of what it was like to be a member of a Scout Troop. They took on the role of Scouts, they were formed into patrols and rotated the role of Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader.

The course syllabus included a range of practical skills such as pioneering, camp crafts, games, fieldwork and pathfinding. They also attended specialist lectures on topics as varied as Industrial Welfare, the Education Act and Rover Scouting.

Following their successful training, adult leaders were given beads, from which the name of the course was developed.



## Wood Badge Recipients April 2018 - March 2019

### Joey Scout Section

Laura Crump, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's)  
Katherine Lockman, 1st Toongabbie  
Karina Wardle, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's)

### Cub Scout Section

Heather Morris, 1st Castle Hill 'Kookaburra' Pack  
Tiffany Williams, 3rd Merrylands

### Scout Section

Benjamin Gross, 1st Rydalmere  
Mathew Harris, 1st Oakville  
Rex Willard, 1st Toongabbie

### Rover Section

Jordan Longmuir, 2nd Baulkham Hills Outdoor

### Leader of Adults

Melanie Dimmock, GWS Region  
Rachel Ewings, Parramatta District  
Geoffrey Henderson, GWS Region  
Jenny Liles, 1st Murray Farm  
Shane Selwood, 1st Winston Hills

Today, celebrating Centenary, the Wood Badge remains as an important mechanism for shaping the leaders of our Movement. To grow our movement and empower more young people through Scouting, we need more adult volunteers to commit to our cause and support the implementation of our Vision. We should attract more volunteers, deliver relevant training, and retain them for various responsibilities.

Join us for GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION GILWELL REUNION at BUNDILLA SCOUT CAMP. 7th SEPTEMBER, 2019. 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Register at [events.greaterwestscouts.com.au](https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au)

*Cassie Rec*

Region Commissioner  
(Adult Training & Development)

## COMMUNICATIONS & PR

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

- maintenance of and content updates to Region website, Region Calendar and Region Directory
- 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

It was great to see such a good turn up of youth and leaders to help promote Scouting at the many public displays and events throughout the Region during the year. Also, thanks to everyone who came along to support Cumberland Gang Show, another fantastic PR activity for Scouting in GWS.

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 Region 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

Once again, another challenging year for me in regards to representation at International Activities.

The International Team mounted an activity base at the Region Jamborette.

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

- National Rover moot, New Zealand
- Nepal Base camp Expedition + climbs
- National Jamboree, Ireland
- Canadian Friendship tour with Australian, English and Canadian Scouts in attendance. Unfortunately, New Zealand Scouts were unable to attend.
- 26th Asia Pacific Scout Conference, Manila Philippines
- 9th Asia Pacific Scout Youth Forum, Manila, Philippines
- National Venture New Zealand
- In the footsteps of the founder – Mafeking, South Africa and Nairobi, Kenya

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

- Scout International Student Exchange Program, both participating and home hospitality
- Continuing assistance with Scouting in Vanuatu
- We had leaders visiting from Canada, Hong Kong & New Zealand

I take this opportunity to thank the members of our International team for the ongoing support and encouragement which is very much appreciated. 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 & David Stopps and all the office staff for the support and assistance given to us in achieving what we have in our Region for International Scouting.

*Peter Nickl* OAM  
Region Commissioner (International)

## MEMBER SUPPORT

The decision of the NSW Scout Association to strengthen the Member Support Teams throughout the State has meant that we now have a team in our Region to assist Youths, Leaders and Parents through difficult circumstances.

One of our roles is to educate our frontline leaders in how to be more supportive in trying times if and when the need arises in their group, district or region.

We are the source of information and support but we do not replace professional counsel.

As part of our ongoing support there is also new positions for Youth Safe Advocates as further development in the support of all members of the Association. This new initiative commenced 1st July, 2018 and is available at major events as another means of ensuring the safety and protection of all our members.

Contact with the Member Support Team can be made through our GWS Region Office on 02 9639 2488 or email: [membersupport@greaterwestscouts.com.au](mailto:membersupport@greaterwestscouts.com.au)

Our State Child Protection Hotline can also be contacted in emergencies on 1800 605 004 or [ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au)



### YOUTH SAFE ADVOCATES (YSAs)

Now that the trial process has been completed to appoint Youth Safe Advocates (YSA) across Scouting the initial team has now expanded across all Regions to ensure that we have trained people to assist youths when necessary. They are the voices of those who may not wish to speak out or know what to do if they have concerns. The Advocates will ensure that their voices are heard and that appropriate action is taken when any concerns are raised.



The purpose of these Advocates will be to take on a prominent role within the organisation by:

1. Becoming the 'on the ground' face of Scouts NSW Child Safety initiatives – particularly at large events;
2. Understanding and explaining Scouts NSW Child Protection policies and procedures;
3. Promoting Youth Safe Messaging throughout the organisation;
4. Achieving a high level of understanding of prevention and intervention of child abuse strategies;
5. Encouraging and enabling incident reporting.

There are support processes now in place responsible to the Child Protection Team and the Child Protection Officer.

Training is required as part of the pre-appointment requirements with e-learning from the Office of the Children's Guardian and face-to-face training from the Child Protection Officer.

Those who are interested in becoming part of this team should contact one of the Advocates or your RC GWS to find out more details.

*Carol Cope*  
Region Commissioner (Member Support)  
Youth Safe Advocate

## ACTIVITIES



Since taking on the role as Region Commissioner Activities back in 2011, I have been continually amazed at the skill level we have within our Region, when it comes to Adventurous Activities. The passion; the dedication; the very conscious attitude to safety; are all attributes, held by every single person within my team, and all done with a focus on learning and teaching new skills, in a fun environment. It has certainly made my role an absolute pleasure to carry out.

Yes, there have been lots of changes, and yes there is still many more changes to happen. But one thing with activities; you still go downhill when you abseil; the flat part of the paddle is still the bit that goes in the water, and it is still very dark in a cave without a decent head torch. Some things just don't need to change. Even how we deliver our training and workshops has not changed a lot. There are certainly a few regulations which have changed, some for the better, and others .... well I am not so sure. My objective has not changed. It is to see youth getting out, taking the opportunities to learn new adventurous skills, to learn and understand risk; to push themselves a little bit out of their comfort zone; and without being too political; remove some of the cotton wool that society is packing around youth these days.

Over the last few years the one team that has really excelled is our Rock Team. When I say "rock" I mean abseiling off a rock; climbing up a rock; caving inside a rock; or canyoning between a rock.

Stuart Cowen has led numerous Abseiling workshops which are always popular. Whether it is a simple 8m abseil up at Bowen Mountain or a 180m 5 pitch abseil

in the Blue Mountains, we have them all covered. Big thank you to Stuart, along with Paul Jefferies and David (Macca) McKinley, and the rest of the team for a huge effort over the last 12 months.

Macca has also been instrumental in running a number of high ropes Workshops (Rock Climbing), which are also very popular with the youth.

Caving is another rock activity which continues to go from strength to strength. It's not just the more well-known caves that the team seeks out. It's those lesser known caves; Timor and Borenene Caves, which provide all involved with an array of differing experiences.

Meredith Stewart has continued to do an amazing job with the caving, even while convalescing for a good part of the year after breaking her leg in a snow skiing mishap. The premier caving activity each year is the Scout Proficiency Badge Weekend down at Wee Jasper. With over 50 participants in attendance Wee Jasper has it all. From simple but still spectacular horizontal caves like Signature Cave or even Carey's Cave, to the more challenging Punchbowl Cave, with 40m abseiling to get in and that 40m caving ladder (or prussick) climb back out.



Canyoning is also a popular, more high-end adventurous activity. We are so fortunate to have some incredible canyons in fairly close proximity to Sydney, which again offer simple dry canyons to the more extreme canyons with abseils down water falls, in full wetsuits. Big thank you to Ross Smith who has shared his passion and knowledge to numerous canyons within the Blue Mountains.

Water of course is also huge on the GWS Activities agenda. Headed up by Tracey Hansford, and ably supported by Ben Gross and Bryan Hall. We have run everything from basic paddle workshops where we teach the fundamentals of canoeing and water safety, to the more adventurous overnight canoe trips. There



is really something to be said about paddling down a river in total darkness, with just the starlight glowing through a silhouette of overhanging trees. These are the experiences youth, and leaders alike, will always remember.

Along with canoeing, we have also run a number of multi-day sailing courses. Big thank you as always to Keith Travers & John van den Burg for their expertise in running these sailing workshops. As a Region we do own a number of sailing craft and are certainly keen to find some more “sailors” who could offer their skills and expertise.

One area where we do have some real skill is in bushwalking. Tristan Flores has headed up the Region Bush walking team for a number of years now, and is a huge asset to our Region. Tristan is equally at home running simple short day hikes, to highly demanding multi day hikes. His wealth of knowledge in bushwalking and navigation is amazing, and he is incredibly popular with both his peers and youth alike, with his quiet and unassuming nature.

Our Region Fox Tower has not actually been set up fully in the last 12 months. But that did not stop our Fox team led by Quentin Napier setting up and running the Onsite Flying Fox at the Region Jamborette. As I indicated last year, planned changes to rules and regulations for setting up and running the Fox will certainly change what we can and can't do in the future. Hopefully some common sense will prevail, as it would be a sad day if new rules prevent us from running what is always a popular activity.



Likewise, with the climbing wall. Again, an incredibly popular activity at events, and a fabulous way to promote Scouting into the community. The challenge with the climbing wall is still the high level of qualifications required to run it, along with the availability of a suitable vehicle to tow it.



John Leahy, though now retired from work, has still been able to provide one of those more unique activities with his “Science” Nights, which have an almost legendary status within our Region. We are the only Region in not just NSW, but Australia wide, that has anything like this to offer.

The Circus Team is also one of those more unique activities we can offer. Teaching some of those more unique circus tricks, the team has been involved with several workshops and community events over the year.

Karl Humphreys has also been a strong player when it comes to JOTA/JOTI with opportunities for youth to get involved with not just radio communication equipment, but also the latest in navigation systems and equipment, that can be utilized in many of our outdoor pursuits.

While it is really an activity that stands alone, Gang Show does come under the Region Activities umbrella. There are more skill learning opportunities within Gang Show than any other activity. And let me say, there is as much an adrenalin rush waiting for that curtain to rise, as there is abseiling down a 30m cliff.

I would like to acknowledge Neville Henderson, as retiring Region Commissioner, who has been a great support to myself, and my team, since I first took on the role.

I think I said it once before, working with the team I have, I still reckon I have the best job in the Region. ... and did I mention I also get the chance to do lots of the fun stuff!

Mark Fell (Dingo)  
Region Commissioner (Activities)

# CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW



2018 was our 49th season and was very successful with a continuation of the new staging and technical enhancements. The theme of the show was “Feel the Beat” and was made up of brackets with a great mix of new and old material supplemented by commercial songs.

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 joey scouts, cub scouts and the guiding equivalent performing 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 retained the schedule of 8 performances including 4 matinees which continued to be popular. A total of 4300 patrons attended 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 2019 show is “50 Years Together”. We were delighted to have more than 200 applicants audition for this season. A special addition for our 50th year is to include 20 senior members in our Legends Cast. Again there is a great mix of new and old original material supplemented by commercial songs. A special song has been written to mark our 50 Years Together.



A 50th Anniversary Committee was formed to coordinate all our merchandising and events to celebrate this special year. Major merchandising includes specially designed shirts and hoodies. Major events included the presentation of 400 special 50th scarves, edged with gold, to all the cast and crew. A 50th Birthday Party Picnic was held for all past and present members of the Gang. A fun afternoon was enjoyed by all as they participated on a jumping castle, a giant slide, garden games, fairy floss, a CGS memorabilia display and a birthday cake. This will be followed by a 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner in June.

We are continuing to conduct all the ticket sales through the theatre box office including reduced prices for early purchases. Concentrated marketing has continued to be focused towards Scouting leaders, Scouting sections and past members of the Gang.

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 with two weekend camps at Pennant Hills.

The first and second rehearsal camps have been most successful. The show is now commencing the final rehearsals prior to heading towards the season at Parramatta Riverside Theatre.

Cumberland Gang Show continued to run performing arts workshops throughout the Region promoting self-expression in scouting.

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

*Lyall Wood*  
Chairman

# RADIO, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The science team has continued to visit Groups monthly this year. **Light nights** were popular at Hawkesbury Joeys, South Penrith Cubs, Murray Farm and North Rocks Joeys & Cubs. **Hover (Friction) nights** were enjoyed at 1st Kings Langley Cubs and Rouse Hill Scouts, and an **Arcs&Sparks** night at Blackheath Cubs & Scouts.

A new Activity developed this year is called '**Build a Battery**'. This involves making a Zinc/Carbon D Cell from its basic components, and was made possible by a generous donation of cell kits from Energizer Australia. In the second half of the night the Scouts build a range of simple circuits that would run off 1.5 volts. We trialled this activity at Carlingford Scouts in October, and the response from the Scouts and Leaders was positive.

We normally put on activities at the **GWS Jamborette**, and this year was no exception. Additionally we were asked to provide a Science base for **State Rally** at Cateract Park in August. Initially I was at undecided at what to include. On the one hand it had to be short, meaningful and startling as well as inexpensive, and also not a repeat of something the GWS Scouts had seen recently.

I decided on seven bases of which the Scouts spent 10 minutes at their choice of three.

The bases were *Sugar Snake* (smoke, flames and... it's ALIVE!), *Polarised Light* (how does that work?), *MicroWave Oven* (don't do this in your mother's oven), *Electric Circuits* (Cells, Circuits & Motors), *Optical Confusions* (that's weird...), *Liquid Nitrogen* (cool), and *Electrostatics* (will it hurt if I ... Ouch!); a sampling of



some of the best bits of of our science nights with a couple of new challenges developed for the rally.

The activity wouldn't have worked without the help of two teckno Leaders, and six enthusiastic Venturers who picked up the essence of the bases, then explained in their own way to the Scouts; thanks guys.

**JOTA** this year was a non-event in our Region due to the approaching Jamboree. Karl and I continue to maintain close contact with the **Amateur Radio** fraternity through the yearly Field day at Wyong and the local Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club at Glenbrook. Karl of course is an Advanced Licensed operator and club member, and I am such a fixture in their 'Shack' that I was asked to be the Returning Office at their recent AGM.

Thanks to Karl Humphreys and Andy Jenkinson for their continuing commitment and enthusiasm in explaining and demonstrating the science of nature to our youth; to Section Leaders who arranged for us to reach as many youth as possible on the same night, and to the Leaders and Amateur Radio operators supporting JOTA in the GWS Region.

John Leahy  
Region Leader  
(Radio, Science & Technology)



## DISTRICT REPORTS

# BLACKTOWN

The year began with our Venturers attending the 17th Australian Venture “AV2018” in Brisbane when they participated in “Get Set” at Camp Warrawee just north of Brisbane.

Our District Joeys participated in Joey Fun Day at Bundilla in April and the Cubs held their annual District Billy Cart Derby in August. The Cubs attended the Jamborette on the June long weekend at Cataract Scout Park. Our Scouts participated in Scout Hike and the State Rally and attended the Region Jamborette at Cataract Scout Park in June. 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 their forest location. The Blacktown Rover crew have consolidated their numbers and are providing a valuable resource in leadership roles at Groups within the District; they held their very own High School Mootical at Camp Coutts in August.

In April the “Croc” from 1st Quakers Hill – Doonside organised a bus to Canberra where Scouts Blacktown District participated in the ANZAC Day Dawn Service and other activities in the nation’s capital. We also participated in local ANZAC services as well as those in the city.

The Blacktown City Festival was held in May and over 100 Scouts from all sections and their Leaders participated in the march through the streets of Blacktown, they then enjoyed the festival activities with their families. We had some great news at the end of the year with Blacktown City Council providing a long term promotion for Scouting in the District on a Garbage Compactor which can now be seen working in the early mornings on “Garbage” days.

Unfortunately, in July Lorraine Stocks (Former Group Leader at Mt Druitt Scout Group) passed away following many years of dedicated service to her Group.

1st Toongabbie Scout Group was selected as a pioneer Group to introduce the New Youth Program – “The Adventure Begins” which we are eagerly following to ensure our youth get the best they can out of Scouting with the new with emphasis on Youth Leading and Adults Supporting Scouting.

Steve Khan from 1st Riverstone, Helmut Joham from 2nd Kings Langley and Rex Willard from 1st Toongabbie were presented with their Wood Beads during the year.

Furqan Chowdury, Katelyn Woods and Jonathon Connor were each awarded the Queen Scout Award during the year.

Suzanne Cornell from 1st Toongabbie Scout Group was presented with the Alan Overton AM Award for her ongoing service to the Region.

Charlotte Albnett from 2nd Kings Langley was awarded the Commissioners Challenge badge for her work with the Cub section.

The 2018 Adult Recognition Awards saw the following Leaders from our District receive an award:

### Outstanding Service Award

- James Ruxton “Doc”, from 1st Quakers Hill Doonside
- Meritorious Service Award
- Michael Gibbs, 1st Mt Druitt Scout Troop
- Alasdair McLean, from 1st North Mt Druitt Joey Mob
- Linda Vella, 1st Kings Langley Joey Mob
- Rex Willard, 1st Toongabbie Scout Troop

### Special Service Award

- Steven Kahn, 1st Riverstone Scout Troop

On Remembrance Day in November Blacktown City Council, in partnership with our four local RSL sub branches held a commemorative ceremony for the 100th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities for the Great War, our District marched in the parade and participated in the ceremony at the Blacktown Showground.

In November the 1st Whalan Scout Group after struggling with only a Scout section and were placed in recess with the Scouts transferred to the 1st North Mt Druitt Scout Group to bolster their numbers.

The Scouting year ended with preparations for our getting ready to attend the Australian Jamboree in January 2019 at The Bend Motorsports Park, Taillem Bend in South Australia.

I would like to thank the Group Leaders and their teams for the work they are doing to provide quality Scouting to the youth members. I would also like to thank Valerie Lockman, Michelle McLean, Rita Corbett and Matt Vella for their roles in the District sections, to Ann Pounder for looking after and following up the training needs of our Leaders and Craig Kennedy as our representative on the Region Executive.

Ross Howlett

District Commissioner

# BLUE MOUNTAINS

Since taking on the role of District Commissioner in November 2019, I have been nothing but impressed by the commitment and dedication of the leaders in the district.

All of the groups have had a strong year of growth with each group having Joeys, Cubs and Scouts running. 1st Blaxland and 1st Springwood also have Venturer Scouts and we look forward to formally re-opening the 1st Blackheath Venturer Unit later this year. The 1st Blaxland Rover Crew "Kalangadoo" and Blue Mountains Fellowship continue to provide service to the district while providing our older members with social opportunities and chances to grow their skills.

A number of great district activities have occurred in the last year, including the District Camp, Annual Water Camp at Nowra, Community Activities and a planned day at the Wascoe Siding Model Railway.

Thanks to all the leaders who continue to provide a great program for our members to enjoy.

*Steve Wallace*

District Commissioner

# HAWKESBURY

Youth membership numbers remain stable within the Hawkesbury District. Within the four (4) groups, including 1st Glossodia, 1st Grose Vale, 1st Hawkesbury, and 1st Oakville, there are a total of three (3) Joey Units, four (4) Cub Units, four (4) Scout Units, and two (2) Venture Units, a Rover Crew, and the Black Horse Fellowship.

To start the year off, the District celebrated Founders Day at Windsor beach, on the Hawkesbury. The day included; Raft construction and races, Canoeing, swimming, and other water activities. The day was well represented by each group which ended up with a sausage sizzle.

All Groups attended the ANZAC Day March in Richmond and various other ANZAC Day Services within the District which were held over two weekends. At each event, the District laid a wreath on behalf of each Group, and at some of these events we provided assistance in raising and lowering the Flag, assisting VIPs to their seats, and handing out the wreaths. The 100-year Remembrance

Day Services were well represented, being on a Sunday certainly helped.

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 District Scouts also took part in the Grand Parade, which received much support from the spectators.

There were other promotions days carried out, including School visits, and Defence Force Promotion days. These events saw additional members joining the groups within the Hawkesbury.

Joeys numbers fluctuated this year, however, remained viable for each of the Groups. This year has seen 1st Grose Vale working on introducing a Joey Unit to their Group, hopefully next year I'll be reporting its up and running. Joeys who attended the Joey Cub Water Fun Day had a ball. They also had a District indoor Rock-climbing night which they all loved. A lot of the Joeys also attend and enjoyed Joey Fun Day.

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

The District Out and About activity was to Berry Island, which saw more than 60 participants attending. A good number of Cubs also attended Jamborette. The Cubs also attended a District Cub Camp to Camp Windeyer which was very successful with all the Cubs enjoying themselves, for a lot of them this was their first camp.

There was many nights of interaction between the Groups which included combined nights between the Groups.

The Scout section had a very busy year with numerous District and Region activities: Scout Hike, State Rally, District Rally, and Jamborette. There was also a lot of preparation for the Jamboree.

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.

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

1st Glossodia Venturers held their trip to hike to Sweden to take on the Kungsleden trail, which they

worked very hard in planning and fundraising. This was two years in the planning and was very successful.

Congratulations to Chloe Harris (1st Oakville), and Ashleigh Allan (1st Oakville) for achieving their QS award.

Blackhorse Fellowship continues to fundraise throughout the year and helping out the District where they can. They provided District shirts for all the Scouts and Leaders who attended Jamboree, they also organise the Hawkesbury Show site, without their support we would not have a Stand at the annual Show. They also assisted in all the Promotion days and attend each group and provide many interesting activities.

Although we are always looking for more leaders our Leader numbers have been stable. This year saw five of our Leaders receive Special awards, congratulations to:

**District**

Garry Hudson DA- Meritorious Service

**1st Hawkesbury**

Phyllis McAlpine ACSL- Silver Kangaroo

Phil Heinrich GL- Meritorious Service

Sara Molle Group Secretary - Special Service

**1st Grose Vale**

John Arrowsmith LIC - Special Service

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, just to name a few of the Fund Raising activities.

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude 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 and exciting to all.

*Phil Heinrich*

District Commissioner

# HILLS

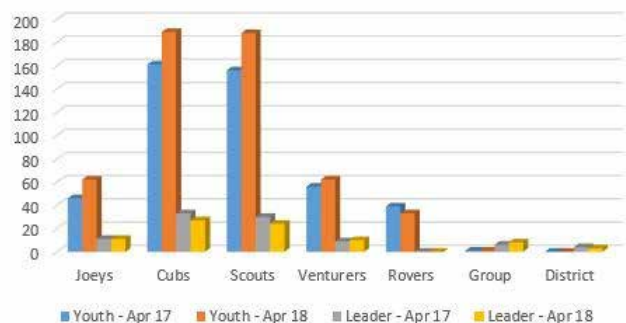
Membership within the Hills District continues to grow. Numbers have been increasing well with the District enjoying a further 5% increase in youth, adult and overall members in the past year.

The District, whilst located in a significant growth corridor, is currently experiencing a plethora of interested youth, and as a result we have pleasingly experienced a 29% growth in the number of Groups, excitedly commencing 2 new Groups; 1st Rouse Hill and Castle Hill Coptic. Both of these Groups are now up and running with growing numbers of youth.

Interestingly, we have enjoyed significant growth in 2 Sections that don't typically see an increase. This is testament to the hard work the sections are undertaking with retention strategies to entice the linking process.

1. Venturers – 35% growth
2. Joeys – 21% growth
3. Rovers – 12% growth

Hills District - Membership Growth - 2017 to 2018



Each of the Sections have been extremely active, hosting many joint nights with a wide variety of activities such as; District campfires, iFly, Pack holidays, family camps, Jamborette, Scout Hike, Dragon Skin, Easter Camp, hikes & canoe journeys, Flip Out, AJ2019, high ropes, inter unit challenges, laser tag, Waratah, rock climbing, performing arts; just to name a few; and many other fantastic themed events.

All of the Groups have continued to be active in the community, participating in; Clean-Up Australia Day, Anzac Ceremonies, canned food drives, environment & conservation events, and community fairs/fetes/ events, etc.

The youth have continued to strive for excellence achieving a significant amount of badgework including

numerous achievements in Joey Scout Promise Challenge, Grey Wolf, Scout Medallion, Queen's Scout & BP Awards. The section programs continue to deliver inspiring activities that are increasingly youth led adult supported.

A number of Adult Members in the District, were honoured by the Chief Scout of Australia, the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) in the annual Adult Recognition Awards for good service:

#### SILVER KANGAROO

Allan Staples - LIC/Scout Leader - 1st Castle Hill

#### SILVER KOALA

Jenny Page - Cub Scout Leader - 2nd Baulkham Hills

#### MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

James Holloway - Asst. Venturer SL - 1st Castle Hill  
Tracey Hourd - Group Secretary - 1st Castle Hill

#### SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

Shelley Brackley - Group Chairman - 1st Kellyville  
Anthony Colvin - Group Trustee - 1st Castle Hill  
Richard Horman - Cub Scout Leader - 1st Castle Hill

#### STAN BALES ROVER SERVICE AWARD

Ayla Jones - Rover - 2nd Castle Hill

Despite the great youth increase, we are not experiencing the same growth in Leaders. We are currently at capacity in a number of Groups and many Leaders working hard across dual appointments. Many resources are required to assist attract more Leaders to ease the current strain and provide further opportunities for youth membership growth.

I would like to personally thank the adult members for their dedicated & selfless service to the youth in the District. To the District Leaders that support myself & the Sections, thank you. To the parent helpers & Group Committees that support the Leaders, thank you. To the frontline Leaders that give up more than their fair share of '2 hours per week', thank you. Together we will continue to give the youth a wide variety of experiences and shape their future. Thank you.

We expect this next year to continue to increase with the large residential growth in the District and look forward to transitioning into a smooth implementation of the new youth program.

*Terry Brooke*  
District Commissioner

## HOLROYD

The following adult members were recognised for their Service to Scouting at the Region Award Presentation Night.

Silver Emu: Ron Brown

Silver Koala: Des Horton

Distinguished Service Award: Linda Apthorpe

Meritorious Service Award: Trevor Fowler

Special Service Award: Robert Lees, Brett Nicholas and Tiffany Williams.

The Queens Scout Award was awarded to Mikayla Ozols from 1 / 2 Merrylands.

Congratulations to each and every one.

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

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

To all the Leaders of this District please accept my thanks for your continued good work that you have put in to maintain the level of scouting being achieved in this District this is evident by the number badges being earned and awarded to the youth members for their efforts.

The Scouts of Holroyd have been out and about during the last twelve months assisting in the Cumberland Council's Citizenship Ceremonies as well as assisting at the Fun 4 kids and Australia Day activities, they were also well represented at the Anzac Day Dawn service and other Anzac Day services prior to this very moving event, well done.

*Ron Brown*  
District Commissioner

# PARRAMATTA

Participation was the key to Parramatta District's Scouting in 2018-019.

1st Carlingford joined the New Youth Program as a Pioneer Group in "The Adventure Begins" and reported regularly to the District on their progress in the new youth program, encouraging the other groups to prepare for the transition to the new program.

2nd Northmead organised the Anzac March and were rewarded with a huge turnout at the March in Parramatta. Almost every group in the district took part in the March and supported the Veterans on their day.

Dragonskin attracted solid participation from the District with 4 Units competing. 1st North Rocks "Not Last" Team lived up to their name and came in 90th place, the highest placing of the 4 teams and definitely "not last"!

Scouthike 2018 saw 6 district patrols take place in the event. Best placed patrol was the 1st Yheets from Carlingford closely followed by 1st North Rocks 225 Potatos.

"Dumbeldorks" from 1st North Rocks were the pride of the District at Waratah in November 2018, coming 6th from 30 teams. Parramatta District sent 6 Teams this year with otherwise mixed results predominantly at the far end of the table. Every team reportedly had a very good time.



Jamborette June 2018 attracted Scouts and Cubs from all over the District for the most popular Scouting event of the year.

Parramatta District youth also achieved a high number of peak sectional awards in all sections.

Outdoor activities featured heavily on the Scouting Calendar with strong district participation in the Joey/Cub Fun Day on the Water, Canoe Courses, Sailing, Abseiling, Circus, Caving and Canyoning. Most Groups participated in the District Hikes, Competition Camps, Family Camps and Fund Raising events at Bunnings.

The Culmination for the year was AJ2109 at Taillem Bend with 2 Patrols attending from the District. All participants and leaders returned with a healthy respect for grass!

Joey's, Cubs and Scouts enjoyed the District Founder's Day Swimming Carnival in February at Wentworthville Pool. This event seems to be growing larger each year with the trophies offered for the Scout events attracting strong competition. 1st Ermington again featured heavily in the pool events.

Parramatta District has maintained steady growth in most groups and has a strong base. We look forward to building on our groundwork set down in 2018-19 for a stronger and more active 2020 under the new strategic plan.

District plans are afoot to prepare the Cubs for Cuboree 2020 through a number of Boomerang Camps and overnight camping activities.

*Tracey Hansford*  
District Commissioner

# PENRITH CITY

2018/19 has been a great year for Penrith City Scouts.

1st South Penrith Scout Group has continued to be a strong and vibrant group with the re-opening of the Joey Mob and a second Cub Scout Pack. This gives the group all sections from Joeys through to Venturers. The group has delivered a great program with heaps of camps, walks, group events and several peak awards being presented.

The group at 1st Cambridge Park has had an amazing year with strong growth in all sections. The group held a group camp, several outings to local venues including the Bus Museum and Nepean River, a pack holiday to Hill End and a trip to Canberra.

1st Erskine Park farewelled long serving leaders Jason and Janice Edwards from the Venturer section this year. Janice and Jason were responsible for building the section from the ground up and will be sorely missed. The group has continued to provide an exciting and varied program joining 1st Cambridge Park in their trip to Hill End as well as Hikes, Caving, Vivid Festival and a Game Show fundraiser for AJ2019.



and of course key involvement in running VOC 4 at Dragon Skin.

The District Team also had a great year with heaps of District Activities including the Joeys going Rock Climbing and Aqua Golfing, our Cubs having a District Pack Holiday and participating in JOTT and our Scouts having their own Laser Skirmish, Disaster Chef, District Hike, Leadership Course and District Camp. The Venturers participated in Waratah and Dragon Skin, as well as attending the Irish Jambori. St Marys Spring Festival and Penrith Real Festival once again provided a great promotional opportunity.

I would like to thank the District Council as well as all the Leaders and Supporters in the district for their ongoing help and dedication to making a great program full of amazing opportunities for our Youth Members.

*Steve Wallace*  
District Commissioner



Our 1st St Marys Group continues to work towards rebuilding its sections from the ground up. The group is concentrating on the Joey and Cub Scout Sections. Activities over the last year have included a pack holiday in Richmond, a canoe camp and several outings in the community.

Nepean Rovers as always have provided service in a number of ways to Scouting including AJ2019, Bundilla Working Bee, maintaining the Lethbridge St Scout Hall



## SCOUT FELLOWSHIPS

# CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

## SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

The membership of Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship has increased over the past 12 months to 19 members. Whilst most of our members are involved in support of Cumberland Gang Show, we continually seek to expand our membership base. Oversight of Scoutlink member records continues to be 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 accessed.

As well as participating in the 2018 season of Cumberland Gang Show, Fellowship members assisted the catering team at the Gang Show second camp at the end of May, the Gang Show reunion in September, and attended the Region Awards Dinner at Wentworthville Leagues in October. Many members have been involved in preparations for the 2019 season of Cumberland Gang Show which will be the 50th season titled 50 Years Together.

Our social program included a very well attended evening at the Playhouse Theatre at Chatswood, including a tour of the backstage, in May; a successful show recovery dinner at Greystanes Inn in July; a service day in September to assist our member Glennys Gillard in packing in preparation for her move to Grabengullen in the southern highlands; an enjoyable end of year dinner again at Greystanes Inn in November and a visit to Riverside Theatres to see Memorable Moments, preceded by dinner, in March, once again organised by our younger members. Many of our social program events have been planned by our new social activities organiser, Michael Lockman, ably assisted by his wife Adele and Naomi Azzopardi. We are very appreciative of all the efforts of our younger members in organising our social activities.

Many of our members are also active in other scouting appointments in Groups and the Region. Some members provided support to the Region Jamborette, to Dragonskin and to other Branch activities.

Special thanks to my fellow members of the Executive: Secretary Jeanie Wood, Treasurer Evelyn Wilson, Vice President Steve Munro and Activities Coordinator

Michael Lockman. 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 2019-2020.

*Lyall Wood*

Chairperson - Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship

# PINNAROO

## SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

2018-19 has been another remarkable year for Pinnaroo with lots of service and social events to keep us busy.

Within the community we assisted at Clean-Up Australia, Red Shield Appeal and the Children's Festival at First Fleet Park. We again collected and delivered 2 trolleys of groceries for Ronald McDonald House. Christmas saw us at Southern Cross Age Facility singing Christmas Carols and distributing gifts we had made to the residents. We also contributed to the C.W.A. Drought Relief Appeal.

Fellowship members have assisted with knotting at 1st Westmead Troop and navigation at Parramatta. They helped out at Cub Day at the Region Jamborette, assisted at 1st Toongabbie Pack Holiday, Agoonaree and State Palaver.

Members give on-going service to Parramatta Scouts, Westmead Cubs, Gang Show, GWS website and GWS Region Executive (scribe).

Our cooking skills were in demand at 2 GWS Cub Scout Leadership Courses and GWS Vision 2021.

It was not all work as we enjoyed a weekend at Culburra with a visit to HMAS Albatross Air Museum and lots of time to eat and relax. We visited Cumberland Gang Show for a fun filled evening and took a Ghost Tour of Old Government House at Parramatta.

Congratulations to Linda Apthorpe on receiving the Distinguished Service Award on World Scout Day.

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

*Patricia Shaw*

Chairperson - Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship

# 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 2019

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	Administration		
	<i>Income</i>		
1,116	Saleable Items Income	6,069	1,100
667	Donation	200	5,000
	Interest - Bank	4	
	Interest Received	48	
	Awards Dinner Fees	7,755	8,100
	Administration Fees	1,052	
2,219	Sundry Income	391	0
<u>4,002</u>		<u>15,518</u>	<u>14,200</u>
	<i>Expenditure</i>		
51,923	Salaries and On Costs	56,909	54,396
1,918	Awards, Badges & Scarves	4,316	1,570
	Membership Fees		
254	Computer Expenses	5,441	720
-	Depreciation	8,199	108
206	Equipment Rental		2,484
	Insurance	3,562	0
(270)	Meeting/Award Dinner Expenses, net of receipts	8,088	7,700
1,359	Postage	1,437	1,800
1,795	Printing & Stationery	1,705	2,400
585	Repairs & Maintenance		200
1,793	Saleable Items Cost	-32	500
877	Security of Premises	416	1,320
	Professional Fees	3,660	
1,355	Telephone	1,332	2,000
134	Sundry Expense	711	405
<u>61,929</u>		<u>95,745</u>	<u>75,603</u>
(57,927)	Net Administration Cost	-80,227	-61,403
(2,772)	Development & Promotion	-1,756	-1,815
	Camps & Activity Centres		
7,927	Bundilla	-4,164	-3,490
<u>7,927</u>		<u>-4,164</u>	<u>-3,490</u>
	Scouting Activities		
(774)	RC Section - Joeys	183	922
2,241	RC Section - Cubs	13,752	1,558
4,234	RC Section - Scouts	426	9,559
2,476	RC Section - Venturers	686	308
(240)	RC Section - Rovers	-7	-328
9,321	RC Section - Activities	7,209	6,146
(2,751)	RC Section - Others	-1,337	-1,644
(80)	International Section		-164
(6,566)	Gang Show	8,518	9,874
(1,360)	Districts	-2,020	-1,804
<u>6,501</u>		<u>27,410</u>	<u>24,427</u>
1,123	Leader Training	4,435	2,228
2,094	Property	25	4,486
<u>(43,054)</u>	Net Region Cost of Operation	<u>-54,277</u>	<u>-35,567</u>

Greg Brown  
Region Treasurer



**THE SCOUT PRAYER**

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

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



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