

# Scouts Australia, NSW Greater Western Sydney Region 77th Annual Report April 2023 - March 2024



**Scouts**  
NSW

# Greater Western Sydney Region

## Blue Mountains District

- 1st Blackheath Scout Group
- 1st Blaxland Scout Group
- 1st Blaxland Rover Unit "Kalangadoo"
- 1st Hazelbrook Scout Group
- 1st Springwood Scout Group

## Blacktown/Holroyd District

- 1st Kings Langley Scout Group
- 1st Mt Druitt Scout Group
- 1st Nurragingy Scout Group
- 1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Scout Group
- 1st Toongabbie Scout Group
- 2nd Kings Langley Scout Group
- Blacktown Rover Unit
- 1st Greystanes Scout Group
- 1st Westmead Scout Group
- 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Group
- 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Rover Unit

## Hawkesbury District

- 1st Glossodia Scout Group
- 1st Grose Vale Scout Group
- 1st Hawkesbury Scout Group
- 1st Oakville Scout Group
- Hawkesbury River Rover Unit

## Gang Show

- Cumberland Gang Show

## Hills District

- 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Group
- 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 Unit
- 2nd Baulkham Hills 'Outdoor' Rover Unit
- 2nd Castle Hill Scout Group
- 2nd Castle Hill Rover Unit

## 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 Winston Hills Scout Group
- 2nd Northmead Scout Group
- Kings Langley Rover Unit
- Western Sydney (BLIA) Scout Group

## Penrith City District

- 1st Cambridge Park Scout Group
- 1st Erskine Park Scout Group
- 1st South Penrith Scout Group
- Nepean Rover Unit

## Scout Fellowships

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



# Greater Western Sydney

## Region Team 2023 - 2024

REGION PRESIDENT	Ross Grove
REGION CHAIRPERSON	Debbie Howlett
REGION TREASURER	Ross Howlett
REGION COMMISSIONER	David Stopps / Tony Dent
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	Stephen Wallace
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	Matt Thompson
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	Tony Dent
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	Melanie Dimmock
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	Geoff Henderson
REGION OFFICE MANAGER	Wendy Dimmock

## Region Commissioners

RC JOEY SCOUTS	Brian Zarth
RC CUB SCOUTS	Emma Watson / Gabie Thompson
RC SCOUTS	Brett Nicholas
RC VENTURER SCOUTS	Brian Nelson / Damon Love / Matt Vella
RC ROVERS	David Bannon
RC ACTIVITIES	Mark Fell
RC INCLUSION & DIVERSITY	Erica Wicks (Acting)
RC INTERNATIONAL	Emma Watson
RC SPECIAL PROJECTS	Col Nicholas
RC MEMBER SUPPORT	Carol Cope

## District Commissioners

DC BLACKTOWN & HOLROYD	Elena Lombardi / Ron Brown
DC BLUE MOUNTAINS	Paul Roach (Acting)
DC HAWKESBURY	Phil Heinrich
DC HILLS	Jodie Astley / Steve Wallace (Acting)
DC PARRAMATTA	Tracey Hansford
DC PENRITH CITY	Tracey Priest



# Contents

Minutes from 2023 Annual General Meeting	5-10
Region Financial Report	11
Region Commissioner Report	12
Region Chairperson	13
Deputy Region Commissioner (Group Support & Issues Management)	13
Deputy Region Commissioner (Youth Program)	14
Joey Scouts	15
Cub Scouts	16
Scouts	17
Venturer Scouts	18
Rover Scouts	19
Peak Awards	20
2023 Adult Recognition Awards	21-22
Activities	23
Cumberland Gang Show	24
Bushwalking	25
Science & Technology	25-26
District Reports	27
Fellowships	28-30
Woodbadge Recipients	31



Greater Western Sydney Region incorporates all of the Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Parramatta and Penrith City local government areas as well as parts of the Hills Shire and Cumberland Local Government Areas.



# MINUTES FROM 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## **Scout Association of Australia, New South Wales Branch Greater Western Sydney Region 76th Annual Reporting Presentation Minutes**

Meeting held at 2:30pm in the Peter Waite Room, Bundilla Scout Camp on the 4th June 2023.

**The Scout Prayer** Led by Andrew McCormick, Region Rover Council

**Present:** Region President Mr. Ross Grove, Region Chairperson, Mrs Debbie Howlett and others as per attendance book.

**Welcome:** To those present by Mr Ross Grove,  
Region President.

**Apologies** Read by Mark Fell, Region Commissioner Activities

**Acknowledgements of Country** Read by Naomi Davey, Region Executive Member

**Acknowledgement of Safe Space** Read by Naomi Davey, Region Executive Member

### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Motion that the minutes of the 75th Annual Reporting Presentation of the Region Council held on Sunday 5th June 2022 and circulated in the Annual Report be adopted.

**Moved:** Matthew Thompson, Deputy Region Commissioner


**Seconded:** Raul Roach, Region Executive Member


**Carried**

### **2. Annual Report & Financial Statement**

Annual Report presented by Mr David Stopps - Region Commissioner

Financial statement as supplied in the annual report and presented on behalf of Mr Ross Howlett – Region Treasurer.





**Motion** that the 2023 Annual Report and Financial Statements be adopted.

**Moved:** Geoff Henderson, Deputy Region Commissioner

**Seconded:** Stephen Wallace, Deputy Region Commissioner

**Carried**

### **3. A Few Words from our Special Guests**

Ray Williams, State Member for Kellyville – Acknowledged all the volunteers in a rapidly growing area for their efforts. Be aware of grant opportunities for youth to grow and develop. Advised that Active & Creative Kids vouchers were at risk.

Julia Finn, State Member for Granville - thanked everyone for the amazing work we do in the community. Spoke of the upcoming budget review and its possible impact on Active/Creative Kids programme. Grants of \$40,000 per seat are available, some of these funds had gone to Merrylands and Westmead scouts for air-conditioning.

Dr. Peter Gangemi, Mayor of The Hills Shire Council – Thanked everyone for all we do, he also acknowledged families and employers who support us in our efforts.

Carolyn Campbell, C.E.O. Scouts NSW -Thanked region for the invitation to attend. She spoke on the benefits of the Active & Creative Kids Programme. And advised a new platform for training to support our leaders.

Stuart Thorpe– Thanked the Region for its commitment to ensuring the smooth running of scouting.

### **4. Election of Office Bearer**

Ross Grove vacated the chair

a. Region President      Mr Ross Grove

**Moved** Peter Lee **Seconded:** Craig Kennedy **Carried**

Ross Grove resumed the chair.

b. Region Chairperson      Mrs Debbie Howlett

c. Region Treasurer      Mr Ross Howlett

d. Trustees

The Region Commissioner

Mr Peter Stieme

Mr Craig Kennedy





**Moved:** Lesley Tamsett **Seconded:** Steve Wallace **Carried**

## 5. Election of Members of the Region Executive Committee

- |                                                   |                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. The Region Commissioner                        | Mr David Stopps     |
| b. The Region President                           | Mr Ross Grove       |
| c. The Region Chairperson                         | Mrs Debbie Howlett  |
| d. The Region Vice Chairperson                    | Mr Peter Stieme     |
| e. The Region Treasurer                           | Mr Ross Howlett     |
| f. The Region Secretary                           | Mrs Patricia Shaw   |
| g. Up to 5 other Commissioners                    | Mr Stephen Wallace  |
|                                                   | Ms Elena Lombardi   |
|                                                   | Ms Jodie Astley     |
|                                                   | Mr Colin Nicholas   |
|                                                   | Mr Paul Roach       |
| h. Up to 3 Non-Uniformed Lay Personnel            | Mr Glenn Duncan     |
|                                                   | Mr Michael Majoor   |
| i. Up to 4 others                                 | Mr Lyall Wood       |
|                                                   | Mrs Lesley Tamsett  |
|                                                   | Mr Craig Kennedy    |
|                                                   | Ms Naomi Davey      |
| j. A Representative from the Region Rover Council | Mr Andrew McCormick |

**Moved:** Geoff Henderson **Seconded:** Brian Zarth **Carried**

## 6. Election of Representatives to the Branch Council

- |                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| a. The Region Commissioner   | Mr David Stopps    |
| b. The Region President      | Mr Ross Grove      |
| c. Under 30's Representative | Ms Naomi Davey     |
| d. 3 Others                  | Mrs Debbie Howlett |
|                              | Mr Craig Kennedy   |
|                              | Mr Peter Stieme    |





**Moved:** Col Nicholas **Seconded:** Lesley Tamsett **Carried**

**7. Election of Members of the Region Supporters Council**

**a. The Region President** Mr Ross Grove

**b. All Commissioners Working within the Region**

Mr David Stopps  
Mr Geoff Henderson  
Mr Matthew Thompson  
Ms Melanie Dimmock  
Mr Stephen Wallace  
Mr Tony Dent  
Mr John Mark Fell  
Mr Brian Zarth  
Ms Emma Watson  
Mr Brett Nicholas  
Mr Brian Nelson  
Mr David Bannon  
Ms Jodie Astley  
Ms Elena Lombardi  
Mr Philip Heinrich  
Mrs Tracey Priest  
Mr Ronald Brown  
Ms Tracey Hansford  
Mrs Carol Cope  
Mr Robin Garrett  
Mr Neville Henderson  
Mr James Holmes  
Mr Ross Howlett  
Mr Colin Nicholas  
Mrs Janette Playford  
Mrs Ann Pounder  
Mrs Anne Thompson  
Mr Raymond Thornley  
Mr David Twist

**c. The Region Chairperson** Mrs Debbie Howlett





**d. The Region Vice-Chairman** Mr Peter Stieme

**e. The Region Treasurer** Mr Ross Howlett

**f. The Region Secretary** Mrs Patricia Shaw

**g. 2 Representatives from each Group in the Region**

Group Leader/Leader in Charge

Group Chairperson

**h. 2 Representatives from the Region Rover Council**

Mr Andrew McCormick

Ms Natasha Lette

**i. Any other additional supporters**

Mr Craig Kennedy

Mr Glenn Duncan

Mr Michael Majoor

Mr Lyall Wood

Mrs Lesley Tamsett

Mr Paul Roach

Ms Naomi Davies

Lord Mayor of the City of Parramatta

Mayor of the City of Penrith

Mayor of the City of Cumberland

Mayor of the City of Blacktown

Mayor of the City of Hawkesbury

Mayor of the City of the Blue Mountains

Mayor of the Hills Shire

**Moved:** Geoff Henderson **Seconded:** Steve Wallace **Carried**

## **8. Frequency of Meetings**

That the meetings of the Region Executive Council be held on the 3rd Monday of each month except January commencing at 7:30pm. Should that day be a public holiday, the meeting shall be held the following evening.

**Moved:** Lesley Tamsett **Seconded:** Craig Kennedy **Carried**

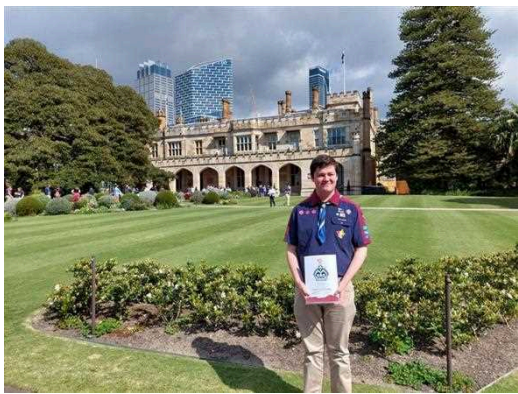
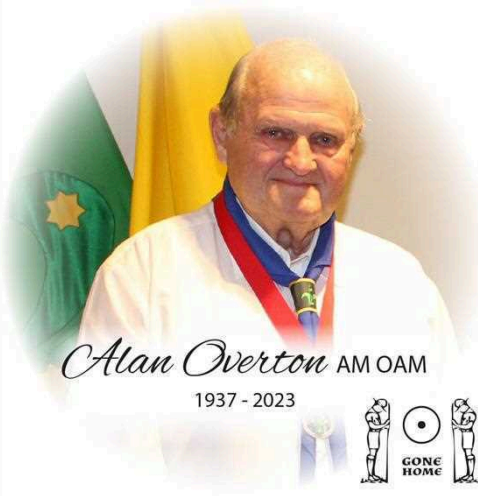


## 9. Address

Mr Lloyd Nurthen – Chief Commissioner, Scouts Australia, NSW Branch  
Announced he was thrilled to hear of the achievements across the Region. Told how he was proud of the volunteers and their support of the youth in our Region.

## 10. Conclusion

Mr Ross Grove – Region President, thanked everyone for their attendance and invited everyone to join for Afternoon Tea with thanks to Gumnut Patisserie Bowral.



# REGION FINANCIAL REPORT

## The Scout Association of Australia - New South Wales Branch

### GWS Region

#### Cost of Operation for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	<b><u>Administration</u></b>		
	<i>INCOME</i>		
0	Membership Fees	0	0
880	Saleable Items Income	1,575	861
0	Activity Fees	0	0
0	Interest - Bank	0	25
50	Fundraising / Donations	0	0
-2,514	Sundry Income	-290	0
<b>-1,583</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,285</b>	<b>886</b>
	<i>EXPENDITURE</i>		
75,464	Salaries & Oncosts	73,939	78,968
747	Awards,Badges & Scarves	0	1,225
100	Awards Dinner Expenses	0	100
0	Vehicle Registration	0	0
0	Conference Expenses	0	0
0	Insurance	0	0
73	Meeting Expenses -net	217	0
554	Bank Fees	425	603
310	Postage & courier	381	891
1,094	Printing & Stationery	966	1,443
0	Promotions & Publicity	0	0
0	Repairs & Maintenance	402	0
0	Cleaning	166	0
0	Saleable Items Cost	941	0
2,593	Telephone & internet	323	1,850
15,326	Sundry Expense	4,734	3,548
<b>96,259</b>	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>82,494</b>	<b>88,628</b>
<b>-97,843</b>	<b><u>Net Administration Expenses</u></b>	<b>-81,209</b>	<b>-87,742</b>
	<b><u>Other Region Activities</u></b>		
-751	Development & Promotion	-196	-1,000
360	Camp Bundilla	-8,603	7,333
0	Caretakers House	-136	0
12,017	Scouting Activities	800	7,102
-307	Leader Training	-80	500
-9,953	Property	-15,833	-3,023
<b>-96,476</b>	<b>Net Region Cost of Operation</b>	<b>-105,258</b>	<b>-76,830</b>

## REGION COMMISSIONER

In this year the region has been full of activities at every level. The Youth Program team have been able to fulfill many of the special items that happen in the Scouting Program.

We had members of GWS at the World Jamboree, KISC100, NZ Jamboree internationally, then Locally it was Dragon Skin, Scout Hike, State Rally, Cuboree and the various Rover Moots.

Within the Region there was Joey Fun Day at Australiana Village, Jamborette, Blacktown Billy Cart Derby, Waratah, Macca's Regressive Dinner and the many activities provided by a very capable Activities team.

Then there was Cumberland Gang Show, if you have never seen a Gang Show it is a fantastic event with a great varied cast of Youth from both Scouts and Guides performing on stage, having fun and learning new skills, the lights, costumes and dances moves that are delivered with great songs and voices after the many months of rehearsals is absolutely AWESOME.

The Rovers participated in the Bystander Behaviour Training, and soon the Venturers will have their turn to participate. We have also start the Leaders on the Safeguarding Children Workshops, this will refresh our Childsafe methods to make us a part of a Childsafe Organisation. And being a Childsafe Organisation is not just a goal it is why we get young people joining an organisation that is Diverse and Inclusive.



We held our Adult Recognition Awards in October, we had many worthy Leaders receive recognition for the service they have given that is above and beyond just their role in scouting, BRAVOOO to all.

November was a major change to the Region Leadership, we farewelled the Region Commissioner David Stopps, who had been a strong Leader for over 5 years in the role, we thank him for his Leadership and guidance and also his family for letting him spend so much time in scouting, we wish him all the best in his future activities.

We have a new and exciting year ahead and I look forward to my first year as the Region Commissioner and guiding the Region to increase our presence and the ideas we have for the region.

I thank all of the Region Executive for their hard work, and also all the Region Teams and Leaders for their ongoing support of the youth, lastly all the Leaders of the Groups without you we could not support the youth achieve their goals.

*Tony Dent*

Region Commissioner

## Region Chairperson

## Deputy Region Commissioner



Well Greater Western Sydney Scout Region and Scouts NSW certainly has undergone some change over the last 12 months. We have welcomed a new Region Commissioner GWSR Tony Dent and sadly farewelled our Region Commissioner for the last 8 years Dave Stopps

I would like to personally thank Dave for his stewardship and servant leadership qualities that he and his family have given GWSR over many years in so many capacities. I am sure Tony will make his imprint on GWSR in his own way as did Dave.

Over the past year we have welcomed our youth programs and fun activities back to what was experienced pre 2019. Without our leaders at all levels, adult supporters and parents, Scouting in GWSR would be rather “hollow”. Thank you all for your positive contribution towards providing our youth with a quality program and exemplifying the “scouting way of life”.

Finishing this report for 2023, I would like to thank all the Region Executive members, Region President Ross Groves, Region leaders and past Region Commissioners (Neville Henderson and David Stopps) who I have served and whom have served with me in various capacities since my taking this position on in 2015. It is time for me to say Bravo to you all and wish you well as a Region moving on into 2024 and beyond. The time has come for me to hang up my shingle as Region Chairperson and leave the “chair” for a new direction. Remember...

“the best way to predict the future is to create it”

Peter Drucker

Thank you all and best wishes for scouting in GWSR

*Debbie Howlett*

Region Chair GWSR 2015-24



2023 has been another year of growth and change for our groups. Despite the ever-increasing administrative and compliance workload, our groups have continued to deliver amazing programs for our members.

One of the major changes this year saw the amalgamation of the Blacktown and Holroyd districts to form the Blacktown-Holroyd district under the leadership of Ron Brown. This amalgamation will help support the groups and provide a stronger support structure. The work done in the Blacktown-Holroyd district will serve as a model when looking at other districts within the Region.

Our team of District Commissioners is thin on the ground with Tracey Hansford from Parramatta district looking to move to another role in Scouting and vacancies in both the Hills and Blue Mountains districts. In addition, many of the positions within our district teams remain vacant, harming how we support our groups. Districts are the first line of support from the region and without strong and proactive district teams, it becomes a lot harder to work together to deliver the high-quality programs we have come to expect.

My thanks go to my team of Paul Roach (Acting DC Blue Mountains), Ron Brown (DC Blacktown-Holroyd), Tracey Priest (DC Penrith City), Phil Heinrich (DC Hawkesbury), Tracey Hansford (DC Parramatta) and Col Nicholas (RC Special Projects) for their work over the past year. I would like to thank Jodie Astley the outgoing DC Hills, and Elena Lombardi, the outgoing DC Blacktown for their contributions to the team. As always, my thanks also go to the Region Office and Wendy for her tireless work in ensuring everything runs smoothly.

For the coming year, the team will be focusing on the challenges around district teams and working closely with all members of the Region Council and Executive to ensure that we can continue to deliver appropriate support for our groups. We have a great program, but unless people are willing to step up into the District and Region roles, cracks will appear.

*Steve Wallace*

Deputy Region Commissioner  
(Group Support & Issues Management)

# Deputy Region Commissioner

What a fabulous year 2023 was!

It was wonderful to see so many members of the region getting out and about enjoying activities and events again.



This year I have had the opportunity to attend a variety of meetings and events across the 2023 Scouting calendar; some highlights being Peak Award presentations, Jamborette, Fun Days, Cumberland Gang Show 'Ignite!', Adult Recognition Awards/Gala Dinners, and The Scout of the Year Awards.

Congratulations to all the Youth Members who reached their goals and achieved their Peak Awards in 2023, the calibre of these awards continues to be of a high standard for our members.

I would also like to give a special shout-out to the GWS finalists for The Scout of the Year 2023, Ollie Wicks (Joey Scouts), Varoon Lalithruban (Cub Scouts), Sophie Penisini (Cub Scouts) and Cameron Letta (Rover Scouts) it is always wonderful to see members of our region represented as finalists for such an award.

In July 2023, Brian Nelson decided to step down as our Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts). I thank Brian for his many years of service and support of the Venturer section. I would also like to thank Damon Love and Matt Vella who have both stepped into this role in an acting capacity while we search for a new Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts).

In February 2024, Emma Watson transferred from Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts) to Region Commissioner (International) – huge thanks to Emma for all her service and support of the Cub Scout section over the last 3 years and I look forward to her support in promoting International Scouting in our Region.

Gabie Thompson has returned to the Region Team in February 2024, taking on her former role as Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts). Gabie has recently supported the Youth Program across NSW as a member of the State Youth Program team.

Thanks goes to all members of my team who continue to deliver amazing opportunities for our youth members:

- Brian Zarth – Joey Scouts
- Emma Watson / Gabie Thompson – Cub Scouts
- Brett Nicholas – Scouts
- Brian Nelson / Damon Love (Acting) / Matt Vella (Acting) – Venturer Scouts
- Dave Bannon – Rover Scouts
- Mark Fell – Activities
- Emma Watson – International

Without this team, we as a Region would not be in the position we are in today; a very strong and active Region that has a lot to offer our youth.

I would like to thank Dave, Steve, and Tony who provided us with support and guidance in our roles.

*Mel Dimmock*

Deputy Region Commissioner – Youth Program (until December 2023)

*Matt Thompson*

Deputy Region Commissioner – Youth Program and Communications (December 2023 onwards)



# SECTION REPORTS

## JOEY SCOUTS

The Joey Section has had a successful year filled with exciting activities, learning opportunities, and community engagement.

The Joeys continue to be eager to explore nature, develop new skills, and engage in teamwork activities.

We currently have 316 Joey Scouts with 60 Leaders. I'm proud of the massive effort from the leaders in delivering a world class Youth Program. This shows it's not a job, it's a passion and it's rewarding. Baden Powell once said that the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people and our Joey Leaders know it. So we should all give a big thank you to all of those leaders.

Our 2023 Joey Fun Day "Super Heroes Back in Time" held at Australiana Pioneer Village was a resounding success. We had 148 Youth and 132 Leaders, parents, and family members. A big shout out to Outback Steakhouse Penrith for providing lunch for everybody. A big thank you to the Australiana Pioneer Village staff providing awesome historical adventures for us. Thank you to Transport NSW for their Rail Safety presentation. Thank you to the GWS Science Team. Thank you to the GWS Region office for the administration.

The Joey Scout Challenge Awards are still low in number, but are evenly spread across the region. I hope to challenge the leaders over the next year as the Joey Scout Challenge Award has a great balance from across the new youth program and is a great introduction to the adventure pathways of scouting.

I need to also recognise the Joeys District and Region Teams, which has included Sandy Knox, Michelle McLean, Nicole Tucker and Krysta Jarvis. We all lead busy lives and the members of this team are no different and I thank them all for stepping up and helping out when needed. It has been greatly appreciated.

A big thank you to the other sections, activities teams, region office, region council and the region executive, we are all working on one program as one big team.

In the heart of every Joey Scout lies the courage to explore, the kindness to help, and the spirit to lead. Let's embrace the adventure within you!

*Brian Zarth*

Region Commissioner – Joey Scouts



# CUB SCOUTS

The last twelve months in the Cub Scout section revolved around Cuboree – preparing for, attending and then recovering from!

A few members began the year with a small event in Western Australia, called One Camp. This was the first event to be running where all five youth sections could be participants, camping occurred as mixed Groups/Units, and there was an invite to members from across Australia, whilst it wasn't officially a 'national' event. In new terms, this was a Tier 2 Australian Scouting Youth Event! For those who were up for the travel, it was a great opportunity to experience Scouting in another Branch, and for the adults who attended, a valuable research experience to base future event planning on. Well done and thank you to all who attended and brought back ideas and inspiration for future experiences.

Personal Development/Leadership Courses ran throughout the year. Each have been well attended, and with the evolution of new curriculums, the courses have featured an adventurous and more dynamic experience. Nearly every District has had Cub Scouts at the courses who are well engaged and are up for whatever challenges and activities are facilitated. These courses are great opportunities to see where our Cub Scouts are at, and the committed team who support them on their journeys. The same team have continued to push through in 2024, and we look forward to welcoming more venues and more support as we add to the calendar. A massive thank you to Jeff Hook who has supported many of these courses, often with minimal support, and to those who have started to step up over the last six months in this space.

Whilst many enjoyed our school holidays in July, we had Cub Scouts involved in Cumberland Gang Show. I may be a little bias, but that was the best show I have seen in years, and a massive congratulations to all the cast, crew and teams. It is great to see our younger members involved in the show and the boundless energy they bring to the experience. We can only hope that they are equally recognised by their individual Units for the efforts they put in – there are many Special Interest Areas that could have been achieved, but have they been?

Cuboree 2023 was absolutely a highlight for many of our members, with great activities and entertainment jam-packed into the four-day event. This was a great example of fun, challenge and adventure and told us all that we needed to know - Scouting in action and being outdoors is where we belong! Running from Friday 29 September to Tuesday 3 October at Cataract Activity Centre in Appin, south of Sydney, NSW Cuboree 2023's theme was "Explore the World!".

The program included activities focused on ecosystems but allowed for plenty of opportunities for entertainment and downtime with friends.

There was action for all attendees, from iconic activities including the Challenge Valley obstacle course, rock climbing and flying fox, to drones, robotics and remote-control vehicles in STEM, plus discos and other performing arts.

The Ocean and Polar ecosystems were particularly popular across the weekend, with their water and ice-based activities cooling everyone down when temperatures peaked in the mid-30s. Thank you to the Greater Western Sydney members who developed and managed the Polar base, and all those from our Region involved in the organising of the event!

Once again, Cub Scouts were involved in activities on the JOTA JOTI weekend. From all reports, this was a great day. Equally, our Activities Team have supported the Cub Scout section with a range of activities, including some fantastic paddling experiences. Well done and thank you to all involved.

Early in 2024, we welcomed Gabie Thompson into the role of Region Commissioner Cub Scouts. The Cub Scout section is in great hands as we progress through 2024!

We know that activities cannot survive on the same dedicated few to ensure the wheels keep turning. I want to thank the heroes of 2023/24 who have helped pull off a range of events for us, and welcome others to be part of this. Please remember to recognise those around you who you believe are worthy of recognition - everyone deserves to be recognised for their dedication, passion, enthusiasm and engagement, so look around you and nominate a member of your Group!

*Emma Watson & Gabie Thompson*

Region Commissioner Cub Scouts



# SCOUTS

Well what a fantastic year the scout section has had. In June we held the 45th Scout Jamborette at Cataract Scout Park. It was great to see our scouts out participating in this great activity. Jamborette would not be the success it is without the support of the Venturers, Rovers and leaders running great activities for the scouts. A big thank you to everyone that works tirelessly behind the scenes to make Jamborette happen every year. We are looking forward to 2024 Jamborette. Being a Jamboree year it is sure to be a huge event with all the scout units preparing for AJ2025.

Jamborette was closely followed by State Rally. State Rally 2023 'Around the World in Three Days', has been run and was a great success, with many Scouts from GWS Region in attendance. State Rally is a lightweight camp where scouts compete against each other as they complete exciting activities over the weekend.

A large number of GWS scouts participated in the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. It was quite the adventure; with Mother Nature throwing everything at you, including floods, heatwaves and finally a typhoon! In true Scouting fashion the Australian Contingent adapted, making the most of the experience and demonstrating true resilience. I have yet to hear a story from a scout where they did not have a fun experience.

I had the pleasure of once again, attending Cumberland Gang Show. What a performance! Ignite was a great show. The cast and all the backstage support did a fantastic job. A special shout out to all the Scout section cast.

In the second week of the July school holidays it was off to Jindabyne to the Alpine Activity Centre for the NSW State Alpine School with ten other GWS participants. The first two days were spent on the Perisher Nordic trails polishing up our skiing skills and then we were off for a three-day/two-night expedition. This was a great opportunity for scouts to learn alpine skills and safely camp in the snow

In October GWS Scouts participated in the largest world scout activity. Jamboree on the Air and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTA/JOTI). Over the JOTA/JOTI weekend in October, 33 GWS Scouts joined with Hume Region at Glenfield Scout Activity Centre to participate in JOTA/JOTI. A fun weekend was had by all. Special guests from Defense and Telco NSW came along on Saturday and ran activities for the Scouts. Scouts got to use Army tactical radios while undertaking a mission, and Telco NSW demonstrated equipment that they use to establish emergency communications and their role in establishing communications in disaster situations.

All participants had the opportunity to build a tent light; learning how to solder in the process.

Over the last 12 months there were a number of scouts that completed their Australian Scout Awards (ASA). The ASA is the Peak Award in the Scout Section. It requires teamwork and leadership to achieve. This is a very significant achievement and there is only a small number of scouts that achieve this level during their time in scouts. All the Scouts that achieved their ASA deserve a special BRAVO for their hard work.

Last but not least I would like to take this opportunity to thank my team for all the hard work they have put in over the year. I can not do my job without you. I would like to thank all the leaders for a job well done and for all your support.

*Brett Nicholas*

RC Scouts GWS



# VENTURERS

Our year commenced with the Dragon Skin, the largest Venturers Event each year with teams from across the state and some interstate attendees. This year the event was located in Penrose State Forest in the South Highlands. Dragon Skin weather of March/April can be unpredictable this year provided clear skies with high wind and cold breeze which was a challenge to many teams. Our highest place team was 1st Ermington in 11th Place, with 1st Kellyville, 1st Winston Hills and 1st Blaxland all achieving a top 50 result. With a total of 140 Venturers in attendance there are many stories with the team from 1st Blaxland a highlight when they noticed a small fire in the forest then called for Emergency Assistance and monitored the situation until help arrived. A great reflection of the Scouting Spirit from youth members.

The regional Jamborette provides the units with an opportunity to prepare and run an activity base of their design. Each year the Venturers produce a large number of activity base for the Scouts attending. This year did not disappoint with the RC Scouts commenting that without the quality of base conducted by the Units Jamborette would be less enjoyable for the Scouts in the region. The Venturers were in a different Sub Camp location which resulted in less space. The Units are to be commended the way resolved space issue and worked with other units in setting up their Sub Camp.

The year would not be complete for the regional Venturers without Cumberland Gangshow . Venturers remain big supporters of the event spending many months preparing for their performances on stage, many also participate backstage in a number of important roles, build their skills in theatre production. Congratulations to all involved.

In early May Brian Nelson indicated he would be stepping down as Regional Commissioner (Venturer Scouts) at the end of June. Brian has been our RC for many years and has been instrumental in evolving the program changes commenced in 2018 into each units program. During the limitations of 2020/21 Brian was active to ensure every Venturer with Peak Award ambition was provide with a pathway to follow. As RC he pushed for the 2020 Waratah to proceed when another event had been cancelled. He maintained the importance of Youth Led focus with the Regional Venturer Council and appointing one of the state youngest Regional Commissioners with the appointment of Damon Love in 2020. Thank you Brian for all your hard work.

During the year the leadership team has focused on providing our units with activities which focused on Outdoor Adventure components, opportunities to lead and personnel development.

With the numbers in each unit having reduced compared to previous years the aim was to produce a camp which combine Venturers in to a large group in order to support the achievement of their peak award. Providing the option of the camp early in the year the team was to help focus the Venturer Units on assisting each other. While not as successful as expected there was increase in communication between units which was a good outcome.

Our Endurance (Leadership through Outdoor Activities) camp that contains key leadership elements from the State Leadership course and combined with Outdoor Adventure. This camp was to assist Venturers in smaller units to complete parts of their Peak Award.

After a challenging year, the Ventures enjoyed Waratah Extraction Point. This year event was conducted across the Sydney Region with Friday night at Baden-Powell Scout Centre before teams used public transport on their way to Epping, Parramatta, Blacktown, Cherrybrook, Schofield, Windsor, and Richmond. After a long day in warm weather teams stayed overnight at Hawkesbury Showgrounds. The final day had teams speed through Doonside, St Marys and Penrith before arriving at the finish line of Thornton Park. Tim Searle created over 38 different activity points, the largest of any Waratah, with a collection of manned and unmanned locations. All teams indicated the event was challenging given they were not used to changing the transport method in such a short time.

We could not complete the year without Thanking Damon Love for stepping into the role of Acting RC Venturers. Damon was well placed to support the Venturer section after 3 years as Deputy RC Venturers. He time in the role had to end and we wish him well with his new endeavours in Canberra.

Thank you on behalf or the Regional Venturer Team.

*Matthew Vella, Erica Dilworth and Andrew Cross.*

# ROVERS

The Rovers in Greater Western Sydney have been quite active over the past twelve months, both hosting and helping at events for all levels of Scouting, at a State, Region and Unit Level.

Our Annual Report Presentation was held in March of 2023, where we elected the New Region Rover Executive. In the same Meeting we handed out two awards, the first to being a Bronze Service Award to Damon Love, and the Second being Dave Bannon's Wood Beads, both being Very well deserved. Finally, the last act of the outgoing council was to present the Annual Rover Council Recognition Awards.

Early April saw a great Contingent of our Rovers head down to Penrose State Forrest to help set up and run some bases for Dragon Skin over Easter with a handful of our own helping on the VOC 4 organizing committee. At the same, we saw a bunch of Rovers cross the Ditch to attend the 80th New Zealand Moot.

As per tradition, Rovers headed to their local ANZAC Services, Over 30 of our Rovers headed into to the city for the Dawn Service, with a few staying behind to help carry the Banners following the March.

May seems to have been the fundraising Month, with Kings Langley Rovers once again running their Annual Formal Regressive Macca's Dinner, raising funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charity. A great night for Ventures, Rovers, Leaders, Senior Guides and Olaves. Shortly followed by Blacktown Rovers, once again running their Biggest Morning Tea for Cancer Council. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves with this year's event having a "game show" theme.

GWS Rovers were on a "Scouting World Tour" in June with Rovers headed to Jamborette to run our bases and help on site with various jobs, to support the event. At the same time, a great number of us headed all the way down to Mafeking Rover Park in Victoria for MUDBASH, which is a Vic Rovers run, off road Rally Series. If that wasn't enough driving for you, we also had some of our Rovers attend the "Winter Wonderland" Rover Ball in Wollongong, everyone of course having a wonderful time at the event!

Blacktown Rovers ran their Queer Formal for the 2nd year in a row, continuing to embrace the LGBTQIA+ community. With the Event growing bigger each year, the coming one will surely be a good night for everyone who gets involved.

GWS Moot – "Mootendo" was successfully run in August by Kings Langley Rovers after winning Nepean's "Boot Scootin' Moot" in the previous year. With over 160 people from right across Australia (and even a couple from NZ) the participants enjoyed themed bases, Canoeing and Chair Stacking. Congratulation to Hawkesbury River Rovers on winning the event!

September was another month of driving, With Rovers heading down to Albury to show support of the 1st Moot run by their Region in a very long time! A little later on in the month they we were off to Tamworth for Bush Dance, which is a great fundraiser for rural charity as well as injecting a bit of Tourism into the town.

Towards the end of the year, Blaxland ran a "Werewolf" Halloween themed Region Social Night. This is a great way Units can get together, hang out and get to know each other a bit better. Blacktown ran a Mocktail and Slam Poetry Night as well as "Rover Big Day Out" where participants cleaned up the beach before lunch and hitting the waves. Nepean closed out the Casual / Social event with a laugh at their Comedy for a Cause.

GWS Waratah – "Extraction Point" was an excellent event as usual, With over 130 people in attendance. The Rovers helped run the bases stationed across the Sydney Basin, even holding some roles on the Organizing Team. As well as the lasting memories, It continues to be a great way for our Rovers to liaise with the Venturers.

The final event for the year just past was Merrylands new Christmas Party Event, a festive night full of food, games, music and prizes to be won.

*Jayden Thompson*

GWS Rovers Chairman 2024



## PEAK AWARDS

### Joey Scout Challenge Award

Alicia Ceccato  
Alexander Robinson  
Leonardo Cios  
Charlotte Harwood  
Jonathan Kerle  
Jordan Nguyen  
Lochlan Zhou  
Fiona Turnbull  
Theodore Johnson  
Kaysanne Lockman  
Oliver Wicks

### Grey Wolf Award

Charlie Gabriel  
Ella Wilkinson  
Ember Smith  
Felicity Jones  
Jerry Ye  
Qingyuan Gu  
Alyssa Zaeem  
Lucas Leung  
Aaliyah Phillips  
Benjamin De Bondt  
Bruno Sanchez  
Marcus Ticaric  
Matthew Dodds  
Sanuja Dayananda  
Benjamin Soper  
Samuel Hickman  
Nellie Miller  
Tiffany Gale  
Alana Kokay  
Sophie Penisini  
Kyra Lim  
Mitchell Gardner  
Samuel Letter

### Australian Scout Award

Luke Uidam  
Julia Robinson  
Leo Sirisisavath  
Lillian Robinson  
Jai Davis  
Amelia Moran  
Kristina Taylor  
Rhiannon Watts  
Andrew Harper  
Emily Kilvington  
Kaelie Stainwright  
Heath Moore  
James Baker  
Lucinda Blair  
Thejas Shanmugam  
Sullivan Harris  
Cameron Gardner  
Jackson Marsden  
Jareth Lim

### Queen Scout Award

Chanasuek (Chai) Wong See  
Charini Samarasinghe  
Lachlan Chen  
Alexis Taylor  
Kieran Bragg  
Max Coundrelis  
Thomas Hinchcliffe  
Mitchell Boulton  
Fabian Sukumar  
Monique Romer

### Baden-Powell Award

Warren Davey



# 2023 Adult Recognition Awards



## **SILVER KANGAROO - for Eminent achievement and exceptional service**

ROBERTS, Brian Charles - District Advisor, Hills District



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

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

MCGRATH, Christine Therese - Leader in Charge, 1st Westmead

STIEME, Peter James - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Greystanes

WARDELL, Jennifer Ruth - Rover Advisor (Responsible), Kings Langley Rover Crew



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

BISBY, Roger Henry - Group Leader, 1st Oakville

MCLEAN, Andrew William - Group Leader, 1st Erskine Park



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

CRUMP, Laura Kathleen - Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's)

HARRIS, Eric Clifford - Assistant Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills

HILLYARD, Jo-Ann - Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland

MACARTHUR, Anthony James - Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks

SHEPPARD, Wendy Anne - Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills



## **MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD – for Excellent Service**

BROWN, Russell David - Group manager, 1st Blackheath

DAVIS, Andrew Ian - Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blackheath

DAVIS, Sharon Lee - Joey Scout Leader, 1st Blackheath

DIMMOCK, Melanie Louise - Deputy Region Commissioner, Greater Western Sydney Region

ELLCOTT, Sharon Lee - Joey Scout Leader, 1st Hazelbrook

MORDEN, Cathryn Jane - Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill

MORTIMER-BROWN, Khylie Joa - Assistant Scout Leader, 2nd Kings Langley

MYERS, Elizabeth Anne - Group Trustee, 1st Parramatta

PEBERDY, Maureen - Group Treasurer, 2nd Kings Langley

SAUNDERS, Desmond Allan - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills

VANE, Kathryn Jane - Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland

WILLIAMS, Tiffany Louise - Cub Scout Leader, 1st Greystanes

# 2023 Adult Recognition Awards

## SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD – For Good Service

BOULTON, Cynthia Marie - Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith  
BURAKOWSKI, Michelle Ruth - Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville  
CHING, Ho Man - Joey Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks  
DIMMOCK, Matthew James - Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Toongabbie  
DUFFIELD, David John - Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights  
FIELD, Rebecca Dorothy - Scout Leader, 1st Hazelbrook  
GNEZDILOFF, Matthew Lee - Joey Scout Leader, 2nd Northmead  
JOHN, Joseph Parayil - Adult Helper, 1st Parramatta  
KERLE, Robert John - Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford  
KHO, Heryanti - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, Western Sydney (BLIA)  
LESSELLS, Katherine Jo - Group Chairman, 1st Balcombe Heights  
LUI, Siu Pik - Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights  
MACCORMICK, Andrew Brian - Provisional Region Leader, Greater Western Sydney Region  
MILLS, Peter John - Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford  
MURRIHY, Glenn Patrick - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills  
PILAWA, Michael Allan - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland  
RICHARD, Christopher David - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Ermington  
ROBINSON, James Marsh - Scout Leader, 1st Blackheath  
ROMANIS, Evan John - Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights  
RZASA, Artur - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks  
SHAHHO, Atakan - Venturer Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills  
TAMSETT, Stewart James - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland  
TEH, Jinny - Group Treasurer, 2nd Castle Hill  
THEUNS, Suzanne Mary - Group Secretary, 2nd Castle Hill  
TUCKER, Nicole - Joey Scout Leader, 1st Erskine Park  
TUTTY, Judith Dorothy - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Hazelbrook  
UPTON, Suzanne Adele - Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Grose Vale  
XU, Yan - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford



## ROVER SERVICE AWARD – For exceptional and sustained service to the Rover Section.

CASTELLANOS, Natalie - Trainee Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley  
LETTA, Cameron - Assistant Unit Leader, Nepean Rover Unit





# ACTIVITIES

Over the last few years in doing Annual Reports for the Region Activities Team, the word “**change**” has come up on just a few occasions. Good, bad or indifferent, this year has followed on with this same trend.

Change is not just happening within scouting; it is right across all aspects of society.

Now known as “Adventurous” Activities, (I don’t mind that change) what we actually do has really not changed, and also why we do this, has not changed either.

One of the big pleasures in my role is being able to lead a team who all, in one way or another, are unchanged in their passion’ To get our youth out and do **adventurous** stuff!

I still see the Region Adventurous Activity Team as a “**library**” of skilled people, who can be called on to run Adventurous Activities. Let’s just say to keep that library relevant, has involved all of my team, and including myself, having to update/retrain/realign and dare I say “re-prove” ourselves, to maintain competency. As a Region we should be very thankful for their commitment. I know there are struggles and challenges in some of the other Regions, with the GWS Team been called upon the help out on occasions.

...is not that the “grass roots” of Scouting about “**helping other people?**” Just ask any Joey!

Big thank you to Ben Gross and his team, who head up our Water Activities Team. Among the favourites for many are the “evening paddles” which Ben organises, over the summer months, not mention the popular overnights we do down Kangaroo Valley. It is Ben and his crew have also helped out on paddle events in other Regions.

Stuart Cowen has been a real driver with our Rock Team, organising numerous Abseiling workshops over the year. Stuart also understands you cannot abseil for ever and has been mentoring his daughter Zoe into the Rock Coordinator role. Zoe is a highly skilled Abseiler, and we are already seeing some great workshops starting to happen. Zoe is only one of a number of Rovers who are moving into leadership roles within the Activity Team. I see this very much as the new generation for the Activities Team.

Bushwalking has continued to be a bit of a challenge this last 12 months, with a number of popular tracks closed, particularly in the Blue Mountains. Despite this, Tristan

Flores, under his logo Western Sydney Scout Bushwalking, has led a variety of hikes from fairly simple one day events through to a number of multi-day hikes.

A couple of more unique activities with the Activities portfolio include both Archery and the Science Team.

Under the watchful eye of Tracey Hansford, archery is moving from strength to strength, with various Archery type workshops happening. Of course, Archery is now a very popular activity at our Region Jamborette.

Likewise, with our Science Team, who continue to fascinate us all. Big thank you to both John Leahy and Andy Jenkinson along with our Radio man, Karl Humphries, for their efforts over the last 12 months.

To run an activities Team, it is not just the leaders at the “coal face” who help to make it all happen. Of equal importance are the people behind the scenes. To Region Council for their ongoing support, under the leadership of our retired Region Commissioner Dave Stopps, and of course the continuing support with our new Region Commissioner Tony Dent.

For his technical support I would also like to acknowledge Mick Fry, and the ever-friendly voice of Wendy Dimmock, our Region Office Manager, who always puts in a sterling effort with all the paperwork we seem to generate running activities.


As with previous years, I have always said it is an absolute privilege to serve with such a strong and supportive team behind me. For that I do thank you all.

I would also like to acknowledge all the leaders in the Region who strive to get their youth out and doing some great outdoor stuff.

Like I used to often say “Have Adventurous Fun, but be Activity safe”.

And for that I say, “**Thank You!**”

J. Mark Fell JP (Dingo)  
**Region Commissioner (Adv. Act.)**  
**Deputy Chair CGS Board**  
**Assistant Technical Director /**  
**Stage Manager CGS.**



# CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

The 2023 Cumberland Gang Show was called “Ignite!” and it was a blazing success, due in no small part to the enthusiasm of the whole gang as we built the show back up to 134 cast and 6 performances from the 100 cast and 5 performances, we did in 2022 – a 34% increase. We are now well on our way to a full recovery from the Covid years. In the process we entertained 27% more audience members compared to the year before.

We put together a fabulous show full of spectacular theatrical moments and great technical effects which was performed beautifully by 134 enthusiastic cast. That’s a huge growth in just one year and an enormous credit to the whole gang who delivered that remarkable result.

Of particular note, about 40% of the cast for 2023 were brand new and had never been on stage before. They learnt teamwork and performance skills of course, but more than that, they learnt self-confidence and that they could achieve things they never thought they could do; and along the way they found that through enthusiasm and determination, nothing is impossible!

In short, through amazing teamwork, determination, enthusiasm and let’s be honest, through plain hard work, we gave our cast and crew the unique opportunity of being in Cumberland Gang Show and all the joy, fun, learning and future benefits that brings.

The Gang Show Management Team was instrumental in delivering all the behind-the-scenes support that make such a huge undertaking possible, and I would like to thank them for their perseverance and sterling efforts.

I would also like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of the whole gang in 2023 in putting together the “Ignite!” show. Their efforts show the resilience and determination that is characteristic of not just Gang Show but Scouting & Guiding in general. I am proud of the way the gang responded to the challenge and would like to thank the Management Committee and the Production Team for all their hard work.

We are very much looking forward to 2024 with cast numbers and hopefully audiences back to normal as we deliver another brand-new exciting show for our audiences, and another fabulous experience for our cast and crew. At the same time, we continue to promote Scouting & Guiding to our wider community, in an environment of fun, learning & personal growth for the entire Cumberland Gang Show.

*Peter Lee*

Chair – Cumberland Gang Show Management Committee





## BUSHWALKING

Thank you to those who have supported the combined hikes over the past 12 months. With many challenges including the impacts of sustained rainfall to walking tracks and facilities within the National Parks and personal health circumstances we have been able to continue a limited program. This program has included Dunphy's campground to Cattle Dog Ridge in the Megalong Valley, Glenbrook to Penrith, Wentworth Falls to Sublime Point, Ruined Castle, Mount Solitary and Kedumba Valley, Bents Basin, Tallong to Shoalhaven River, and Ingar/Murphys Glen.

We are supported by a vibrant group of young people who have taken ownership of the walks and assist in all aspects of the trip. I am pleased to hear some of our young people have been successful at applying for qualifications with Scouts Australia.

While many tracks in the Blue Mountains are temporarily closed due to the recent rainfall event we were fortunate to be able to continue our hike in the mid mountains. We visited the hidden gems Ingar and Murphys Glen, these two campgrounds provide a unique bush experience and are reasonably accessible. For those who have visited these camps in decades past, it is evident that apart from minor changes to facilities they have escaped the passage of time.

Thank you to all the older Scouts and Venturers who turn up and take ownership of the walks. You are exceptional and without your energy and passion for what we do we would not be here today.

A sincere thank you to our families and participants for your support with transport and supply drops it would not be possible to continue the combined hikes without you. We appreciate your contribution.

*Tristan Flores*

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Science Activities continue to be helpful to Leaders who have booked us previously, as well as new Leaders who have discovered us by recommendation, the Bulletin or the GWS Website. We commenced the year with 1st Hazelbrook Joeys, Cubs and Scouts. The meeting started with Joeys and the Glow Germs program and ended with Cubs and Scouts in the Hover program where they explore Friction in a push bike and how to minimise it, eventually riding the hover disk on a film of low friction air.

1st Erskine Park requested a Chemistry night for their Joeys and Cubs so we setup the demonstration table under an outside light and positioned the youth on bench seats a meter+ away. That doesn't mean we 'isolate the kids from the chems', far from it. They can see the results, they get to feel and smell some products, and a few sixers get to be involved in the experiments. The aim is to dispel the myth that all chemicals are bad or dangerous (after all, every home has a chemical storage and preparation area).

A Solar activity at night! That's what 2nd Baulkham Cubs wanted, and that's what we delivered, after a bit of brain storming and rummaging. I located a couple of IR/UV tanning lamps that had been recovered from the CSIRO skip, and tested my home made levitating Solar Motor which worked well with the lamp. I could show how the Light meter (with appropriate colour filters) reacted to IR, visible and UV light, and how a Heat Pipe transferred heat from the IR lamp. With safe Sun Viewing Glasses from an UNSW open day we could observe the UV lamp's filament briefly, and with colour changing Sunburn Beads we could be warned of high levels of UV radiation



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CONT'

Andy had found a large blow up plastic Sun ball and adapted one of his Cub games based on 'hot potato'. Using a small wind-up, Sun-Earth-Moon Orrery, I was able to demonstrate day/night due to the rotation of the Earth, the movement of the Earth around the Sun in one year, and because of the tilt of the Earth to the Sun, our Winter/Summer seasons.

This year's Science Base at Jamborette'23 had the Scouts recovering plastic rubbish. Karl had them sorting by inspection the plastic into bins by their recycle number. For plastic without numbers, I devised a method of sorting by floatation in clear liquids of density 0.8, 1.0 and 1.3 gm/cc. This allowed plastics PP-5, PE-6, PC-7 and PET (1) to be identified and recycled.

Karl then showed scrap plastic being recycled by extruding to 1.75mm filament, and a 3D printer continuously turning out Minecraft scarf woggles, which he gave to the Scouts.

Andy had devised games using a recycled PET bottle pendulum sand ellipse drawer, and empty drink cans stacking. The tallest on the weekend was 9 cans high!

At the darker end of the Hall I demonstrated LASER objects and games: Blue clouds and green laser hologram star pattern Disco projector, circular pattern generator from laser pointer and rotating mirrors, a glass Helium/Neon gas LASER tube, laser projector that scanned an image of a keyboard onto the table and allowed you to type words into a Laptop, and a laser game for two players involving 45o reflective and half silvered beam splitters.

Hume Region invited us to their Founders Day Camp at Berrima again this year. My aim was to deliver the Water Rocket launcher that South Penrith Venturers had made for them in November AND to show their Scouts how to make PET bottle Water Rockets that fly straight. I also did a Light Night program on Saturday evening for two groups of Cubs.

Karl bought his Ambulance Dispatcher communications game and had paired teams of Cubs & Scouts in traffic jams on both days.

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

*John Leahy*

Region Leader (Science & Technology Activity)



# DISTRICT REPORTS

## BLUE MOUNTAINS

2023 was a successful year for our Groups in the mountains, with a wide range of activities for all sections at Group, District and Region level. These included; Joeys trekking on hikes, two nights camping, canoeing, Cubs wide games, compass skills, knotting and cooking. Scouts attended Pioneer camp at Springwood hall on 10/12 March, District camp at Hartley 9/10 September, Camping Trophy won by Hazelbrook. Blackheath had the second highest number of Scouts in Australia to Jamboree in South Korea, pipped at the post by Balmain.

We unfortunately had some Leaders resign, however also recruited new ones, including GL for Blaxland. Grants have been obtained/applied for by the Groups. Blackheath -\$30,000 to update bathrooms and hopefully re-roof/re-clad building, CCTV was also installed. Hazelbrook for a new ceiling in main hall and restore timber floor in main hall.

**Blaxland** – Baden Place hall grounds requires work to repair gutters and general maintenance to limit WHS risks. Reading St hall requires works to fix fences to help secure from further vandalism and improve grounds which would make it suitable for introductory camps etc, This hall is currently used by Venturers.

Personally, I thank our Leaders for their dedication to the youth of the Mountains and the parents that support them.



Acting DC Blue Mountains

## BLACKTOWN/HOLROYD

First I would like to thank Elena for all her work as DC Blacktown as she moves to another area of Scouting. Since the amalgamation of the two Districts, the decision, amicably reached, was to call the "new" District, Blacktown-Holroyd, this has proved to be beneficial as there can now be more interaction in the District between the Groups.

Since taking on this "new" role I have had, the pleasure to be present at the presentation of two Wood Badge Awardees, and watching other Scouts, also receiving awards, as they move through their Scouting Journey, attending and meeting all the leaders and parents present at their Groups ARP Meetings.



District Commissioner – Blacktown-Holroyd

## PENRITH CITY

A big thank you to all the leaders in District for your continued support and devotion as a volunteer to your Units/Groups and District over the past 12 months, Congratulations to all leaders that received awards at the annual Adult Recognition Award in October, a thank you also goes to our Parent Committees that help with the running of our groups.

Congratulation to all the youth members who have achieved their Peak Awards.

All groups have been very active with units programming activities both indoors and outdoors, they have also had a good attendance at District and Region activities.



District Commissioner – Penrith City

# FELLOWSHIPS

## BLUE MOUNTAINS

The Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship has endeavoured to meet regularly, participate in service activities that support the youth program and continue to enjoy social activities.

We currently have 10 active members, which includes one Associate Member.

Our service activities in 2023/24 included:

- Glenbrook ANZAC Day march and service.
- Provision of an activity base and cooking at Region Jamborette at Cataract
- Cooking at State Rally at Cataract
- Activity base at 7th NSW Cuboree 2023 at Cataract
- Organise and run a JOTA base with BMARC at Moore St Glenbrook
- Run two separate Halloween programs for 1st Blaxland Cub Units
- Blue Mountains District Competition Camp

Our social activities in 2023/24 included:

- Dinner at Glenbrook Bowling Club followed by a theatre performance at Glenbrook Theatre
- Visit to Zig Zag railway in conjunction with Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship
- Attend Infinity 23 - State Fellowship gathering at Cataract
- Christmas dinner at member's home

Our Fellowship has been regularly represented at the following meetings:

- District Council
- State Scout Fellowship Council
- Region Executive

My thanks go to all our members for their willingness to make our service and social activities successful and enjoyable. We are all looking forward to more fun, fellowship and service during the coming year.

*Peter Tansett*

Chairperson - Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship

## PINAROO

This has been another remarkable year for Pinnaroo with many service and social events to keep us busy. Within the community we assisted at Clean-Up Australia, Red Shield Appeal and the Childrens' Festival at Darling Harbour and Bankstown. We again collected and delivered six bags 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.

Fellowship members have assisted at 1st Westmead Scout Unit and given ongoing service to Gang Show. Members also attended Cuboree in service roles.

We again catered the Region AGM and helped at Bundilla as needed. It was not all work as we enjoyed Dinner before our stroll to see the lights of Vivid, we attended Gang Show and had a great Christmas Get together,

Congratulations to Peter Stieme on receiving a Silver Emu 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 - Pinaroo Scout Fellowship

# FELLOWSHIPS

## CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

There are now 14 members of Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship. Our numbers have been reduced because two pregnant members who have given birth during trek 1 and two other members who chose to discontinue their membership after in anticipation of the Scout Fellowship Review.

Many of our members were involved throughout the rehearsal preparations and performance season of the 2023 Cumberland Gang Show titled Ignite. The season was a great success with an increased schedule of six performances including a double cast for the junior girls. The rehearsal season for the 2024 Show, Off the Record, is now well underway, again with the support of many of our members.

We held our bimonthly Business Meetings in April, following our AGM, June, August, October and February this year. These were held at 1st/2nd Merrylands Scout Hall.

Our social program was again a success. In May we ventured to Marrickville to participate in axe throwing at the "Maniax" Axe Throwing Centre. It was a most enjoyable night with many of our members in attendance. Following the 2023 season of Cumberland Gang Show in July we held our wind down dinner at the Royal Cricketers Arms at Prospect. In September we visited the recently reopened Zig Zag Railway with members from Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship joining us. This was followed by afternoon tea at Bilpin. In November two of our members attended the State Scout Fellowship Infinity 2023 at Cataract. We finished the year in December with a Christmas dinner at Club Merrylands. We commenced our social program in March to run a trivia night at Bundilla to raise funds for the support of Cumberland Gang Show.

Congratulations to our members who received recognition in the 2023 Adult Recognition Awards. Jeff Harrison was awarded a Silver Kangaroo, Mel Dymock was awarded a Meritorious Service Award and Matt Dymock was awarded an Outstanding Service Award.

Our webpage continues to be hosted by the Cumberland Gang Show Site and can be found at [www.fellowship.gangshow.asn.au](http://www.fellowship.gangshow.asn.au).

Special thanks to my fellow members of the Executive and Leadership team: Secretary Jeanie Wood, Treasurer Evelyn Wilson, Deputy Chairperson Marion Van Rooy, Activities Co-ordinator Brendan Richards and Publicity Officer Adele Lockman. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and have certainly ensured the success of the past twelve months.

Lyall Wood AM RFD  
Chairperson  
Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship



# WARATAH

The Waratah Scout Fellowship in the Greater Western Sydney region has shown great engagement and activity from 2023 to 2024. The fellowship's membership remains stable, with 11 members actively participating. During this period, the fellowship successfully organized an activity base at the 38th annual Dragon Skin event held at Belanglo State Forest. The event attracted over 90 venturer teams, providing challenging yet rewarding experiences that contributed to personal growth, development, and teamwork, leadership, and outdoor skills development among participating Venturer scouts.

Looking back at the past year, fellowship members attended regional, social, and state events, including GWS Jamborette in June, Cumberland Gangshow in July, and Venturer Training Camping in August, among other activities. In the coming year, the fellowship will continue to support Dragon Skin in running an activity base, commence its first fundraising activity during term 3, and support the Waratah event committee in November.

Throughout the year, fellowship meetings are attended by members, serving as a platform for organizational communication and coordination. These meetings provide an opportunity for members to benefit from the fellowship's strong sense of community and shared purpose.

The GWSR Waratah Fellowship is focused on promoting scouting values within the Venturer age group and providing enriching experiences for members. The fellowship has a robust calendar of events and activities planned for the upcoming year, all designed to uphold the principles that are at the core of scouting.

*Craig Kennedy*

Chairperson, Waratah Activity Fellowship



## 2023 WOODBADGE RECIPIENTS

Gary Riches - 1st Oakville  
Orson Baker - 2nd Northmead  
Michelle Williams - 1st Greystanes  
Louise Gale - 2nd Northmead  
Nirosha Wijesinghe - 1st Carlingford  
Ethan Fitzpatrick - 1st Blackheath  
Jorja Baker - 1st Carlingford  
Katie Littlejohn - 1st Oakville  
Anthony Lawrenson - 1st/2nd Merrylands  
James Robinson - 1st Blackheath  
Jonathon Connor - Blacktown Rover Unit  
Paul Manley - 2nd Northmead  
Scott Barr - 1st Hazelbrook  
Keiara Laidlaw - 2nd Kings Langley



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Annual Report designed by Melanie Dimmock



## 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

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