



Scouts Australia - NSW

Greater Western Sydney Region

61st Annual Report

2008



2008 THE YEAR OF THE
SCOUT

2008 marks a Century of Scouting in Australia and has been designated by the Federal Government as the Year of the Scout.

Scouting is the largest youth development organisation in Australia and the world and is a leader in this country's non-formal education sector.

Scouting prepares young people aged 6-26 for business and community leadership. In its Centenary Year, Australian Scouting is strong with around 60,000 male and female members. Scouts Australia operates through the voluntary efforts of 13,000 Leaders and countless other supporters.

An estimated two million Australians have been Scouts since the Movement was established in Australia in 1908.

Many of these have used the skills and confidence gained in Scouts, to achieve success in their careers, or made other community contributions. Scouts Australia has taught millions of young people resourcefulness, self-reliance, leadership, decision making, and concern for their community and the environment.

We continually provide our community with young Australians who have a greater range of skills, understanding, knowledge and leadership than normally gained through regular formal education systems.

Thank you for taking your part in the education of young people to play a constructive role in society and to become the community leaders of tomorrow.



Greater Western Sydney Region Team 2007-2008

Region President	Alan Overton AM
Region Chairman	Colin Nicholas
Region Treasurer	Lorraine Joiner
Region Commissioner	Jan Playford
Deputy Region Commissioner	Neville Henderson
Region Office Manager	Jan Carter

Region Commissioners

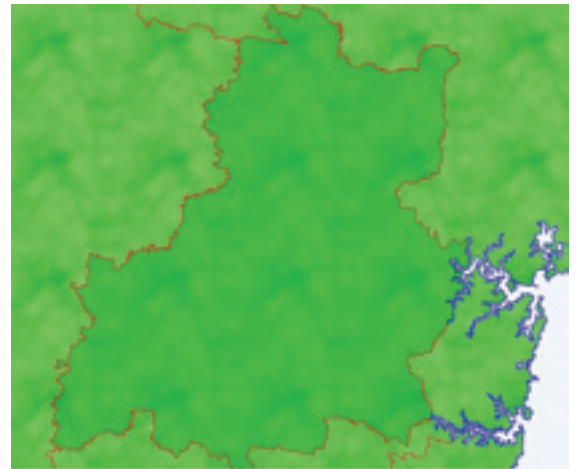
Joey Scouts	Kathy Cuneo
Cub Scouts	Patricia Shaw
Scouts	Robin Garrett
Venturer Scouts	Mark Absalom
Rovers	David Twist
Activities	Keith Travers
Adult Training & Development	Ann Pounder
Development	Dianne Stocks
International	Peter Nickl

District Commissioners

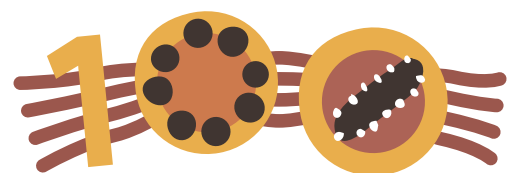
Blacktown	Sandra Parker
Blue Mountains	Paul Roach
Hawkesbury	(Vacant)
Hills South	(Vacant)
Holroyd	Ron Brown
Parramatta	Neville Henderson (Acting)
Penrith City	Roger Hyatt

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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.



**Australian
Scouting**
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS: 1908-2008



"The sport in Scouting is to find the good in every boy and develop it."

"In Scouting, a boy is encouraged to educate himself instead of being instructed."

- Lord Robert Baden-Powell of Gilwell

THE SCOUT PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God,
by who 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

REGION COMMISSIONER

It gives me great pleasure to present the 61st annual report of Greater Western Sydney Region. Our region currently consists of 50 active groups, 10 Rover crews and three Fellowships. We have 8 inactive groups, which we will be deciding to either close permanently or hopefully reopen. Our region covers seven Districts, Blue Mountains, Blacktown, Hawkesbury, Hills South, Holroyd, Parramatta and Penrith. We currently have 2403 members (as at May 18th Membership summary) This is an increase of 91 members last year. We continue to grow ever slowly, which is pleasing as we had many years where we were losing members. We continue to attract leaders, however due to busy lifestyles; many will only give a commitment to a year or two. This means we are losing, as fast as we are gaining. We have had a new Rover Crew open, 1st Nth Mt Druitt as well as 1st Kellyville cub pack reopening, and hopefully a Joey Mob shortly.

2007 was a year of celebration, change and challenges. We celebrated the centenary of Scouting, with many and varied activities. We held a Centenary Party in Parramatta Park, where many of our members took part in exciting activities as well as partaking in special birthday cake. Whilst we were hoping to attract members of the general public, it was mainly our members who came. We were fortunate to receive a grant of \$5000 from the poker machine tax from Parramatta Leagues Club which enabled us to provide activities to our members. The giant slide and climbing wall were both extremely popular. We had some very lucky members who travelled to England to take part in the World Jamboree, a truly unforgettable experience. Our cub scouts attended CUBoree, joining in with other regions throughout the state to enjoy five days of fun and enjoyment. "The bestest time of my life" was one quote from this event. Hills district were treated to a civic reception from Baulkham Hills Council and all groups were presented with a commemorative plaque celebrating the centenary. You will read in the various reports of the exciting activities being provided.

We had some staffing changes Jeff Rose (Region Commissioner Rovers) has taken the role of State Commissioner Rovers and we welcome David Twist. Dianne Stocks has returned to Scouting taking on Development. Dianne is a great asset and will be working on failing groups. I have appointed Matthew

Thompson as our webmaster. Matt will be taking us all into the technological future with GWS firmly on the World Wide Web. Matt will be working with State to make sure our site is working hand in hand with the State website. This is particularly important with Project Star coming into being and our groups going online to conduct much of their business. We also have a new Region Chairman. Colin Nicholas has taken on this very important role and we will be working closely to manage the layside issues including property issues and safety audits as well as Bundilla. I know Colin would like more members to join the Executive representing the districts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kevin Dudeney for the work he did whilst in this role and wish him well for his future endeavours. We also farewelled Jeff Fairall DC Penrith and welcomed Roger Hyatt to the role. We are still looking for District staff in various positions to join the team. We need to fill these roles to enable us to support the groups so they can concentrate on providing quality programs to the youth members. I am working on a plan that will hopefully address this issue, however it is never easy to implement change, so will be done with all the team consulted.

We have endured many challenges this past 12 months. We continue to work with State to implement administrative changes, as well as working as best we can with the financial resources we have. We have rescinded some unused property and are continuing to evaluate the viability of eight others, whether we are capable of reopening them, or concentrating our resources on groups nearby and building those up. We have groups that will be merged in order to give our members quality scouting. Whilst these decisions are not taken lightly we have to provide quality scouting or lose members. We endured horrendous weather at the Jamboree last June and unfortunately lost one of our scouting family, Brian Welna to a heart attack. However, as they say the "sun will shine tomorrow" and indeed it did. The groups who did attend had a great time and went home with dry tents and happy scouts.

The challenge for me has been managing the adults in the region. There is always a settling in period and I feel the next 12 months, with the support of the team will be rewarding. Most of the time, the region rolls along smoothly. I am blessed to have such a supportive team. Most team members are long term and tackle their respective jobs with gusto. The region commissioners sectional, work tirelessly to provide activities to the

youth members, catering to all types of preferences. We move forward introducing modern day activities as well as traditionally perceived activities like hiking and camping. The activity team is a small team who work tirelessly providing, canoeing, sailing, abseiling, rock climbing, caving, radio and science, first aid as well as our famous Cumberland Gang Show catering to our scouts with performing arts skills.

The district commissioners and district leaders are out and about supporting the groups and liaising with local organisations making sure scouting is prominent in their districts. These are the people who take part in local events and parades and I thank them for this. Our office and campsite is ably run by Jan Carter (Jan the elder or possum to her friends). This region could not run without her. Jan works tirelessly managing paperwork, advising, helping and often listening to my, and many others whinges. Jan can always see the positive in a situation and is a tower of strength to me. Lorraine Joiner and Anne Thompson manage our finances ably and once again I thank these ladies. Bundilla has been without caretakers, we are currently hoping to remedy that shortly. Our small band of Executive members have been helping to mow the lawns and upkeep the grounds. We have also had some troops doing service projects which has been great as well as community workers from time to time who are ably managed by Jan Carter to keep them focused. We were lucky to gain a grant through the government Small Equipment Grants and have purchased a mulcher to mulch the never ending twigs and sticks around the campsite. This will help with mulching the gardens and conserve water.

The team are a tower of strength to me. There always has to be a leader, but without a cooperative team, that leader goes nowhere.

I would particularly like to thank my Deputy, Neville Henderson, for his support. Neville never lets me down, is always willing to “get his hands dirty” and tackle some jobs that others avoid.

To end this report, I would like to thank all the volunteers who dedicate their time to this region. Not only the ones wearing uniform but those who don't. The supporters of scouting, family members and the local community. We couldn't do it without you.

Jan Playford
Region Commissioner

REGION CHAIRMAN

Having been on the uniformed side of scouting for 25 years I took on the job of Region Chairman last November. I have discovered just how much Scouting needs the non-uniformed side of Scouting. The region executive is an essential part of region operations and all the members experience amounts to many dedicated years of Scouting.

During the short time I have been in the chair, the executive have been involved in quite a few activities including maintenance of “Bundilla” our Greater Western Sydney Region Headquarters, looking after finances, and processing property lettings, just to name a few.

All these are carried out in conjunction with our most efficient office manager, Jan the Elder.

I am looking forward in leading the region executive during the coming year.

I take this opportunity to thank Jan Carter – Office Manager for her patience and advice, also a big thank you to Jan Playford for her leadership. At this stage I thank on behalf of the region & Scouting Kevin Dudeney, past chairman for his many years of service to Scouting.

Last but by no means least thank you to my team, the region executive for all their hard work and to all the non-uniformed members within the districts of GWSR for your enthusiasm and hard work which all goes towards giving our youth good Scouting.

Colin Nicholas
Region Chairman



FINANCIAL REPORT

The Scout Association of Australia - New South Wales Branch Greater Western Sydney Region Annual Report Cost of Operation Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2008

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	Administration		
	<i>Income</i>		
1,336	Saleable Items Income	1,390	1,600
190	Donation and Grants	4,895	200
290	Sundry Income	-	-
<u>1,816</u>		<u>6,285</u>	<u>1,800</u>
	<i>Expenditure</i>		
39,030	Salaries and On Costs	42,299	47,109
153	Awards, Badges & Scarves	322	500
-	Computer Expenses	215	-
1,010	Depreciation	48	-
208	Meeting/Award Dinner Expenses, net of receipts	419	(150)
727	Postage	583	1,100
3,381	Printing & Stationery	3,807	3,400
91	Repairs & Maintenance	1,282	-
1,769	Saleable Items Cost	348	1,600
1,015	Security of Premises	545	900
852	Telephone	1,776	2,000
327	Sundry Expense	886	160
<u>48,563</u>		<u>52,530</u>	<u>56,619</u>
<u>(46,747)</u>	Net Administration Cost	<u>(46,245)</u>	<u>(54,819)</u>
19	Development & Promotion	(1,308)	(1,260)
	Camps & Activity Centres		
(38,521)	Bundilla	4,487	709
<u>(38,521)</u>		<u>4,487</u>	<u>709</u>
	Scouting Activities		
571	RC Section - Joeys	913	330
1,913	RC Section - Cubs	2,514	40
7,925	RC Section - Scouts	11,871	1,840
680	RC Section - Venturers	591	760
(365)	RC Section - Rovers	(80)	(80)
5,019	RC Section - Activities	4,558	2,189
99	RC Section - Others	115	(200)
(160)	International Section	(160)	(188)
2,843	Gang Show	4,674	868
250	Districts	(80)	550
<u>18,775</u>		<u>24,916</u>	<u>6,109</u>
<u>(134)</u>	Leader Training	<u>(67)</u>	<u>(668)</u>
<u>(12,135)</u>	Property	<u>3,928</u>	<u>(14,700)</u>
<u>(78,743)</u>	Net Region Cost of Operation	<u>(14,289)</u>	<u>(64,629)</u>

Above summary is an extract from the audited accounts of The Scout Association of Australia, NSW Branch, for the year ended 31st March 2008

Lorraine Joiner
Regional Treasurer

Adam Buckle
Hon Treasurer, NSW Branch

SECTION REPORTS

JOEY SCOUTS

During 2007 Kathy Cuneo was appointed to the position of Region Commissioner Joey Scouts.

Joey Fun Day

The 2007 Joey Fun Day was a beautiful sunny day when 140 Joeys with 40+ leaders enjoyed a well organized day of activities based on the Australian bush. The Joeys were put into groups of 18 and rotated through 8 different bases. All Joeys and leaders participated with enthusiasm. The highlight was the big snake shown by "The Crocodile Man" who came with a variety of reptiles for the children to see. Thank you to the leaders who looked after groups of children. Moving 18 children who are all individuals (and their parents) in a given direction takes talent. As well a big thank you has to go to all leaders who prepare and run bases.

We have just had the 2008 Joey Fun Day and once again it was a beautiful sunny day so that the 146 Joeys and 40+ leaders could enjoy activities based on a circus theme. The highlight was "Eddie Spaghetti" a performer who entertained the children with a variety of balloons.

Centenary Day at Parramatta Park

Once more organization and participation were important aspects for all Joeys and their parents that attended this day. Promotion of the event by enthusiastic leaders is important. Many new parents are looking to find outdoor activities for the Joeys and are pleased when they hear about suitable, supervised outings.

Konara

A weekend talkfest for Joey leaders where ideas are exchanged and leaders recharge their enthusiasm batteries. Greater Western Sydney was well represented and joined in all activities with spirit. Our Region also had to provide bases for others to see and we did this well. John Leahy's science ideas, Charlene Bordley's environment activities, Sandy Knox's inspirational Scout's own and Cassie Rec and Helen Sara's senses base were all popular. It was very pleasing to visit a mob and see one of Cassie and Helen's ideas being used as a program. That was the purpose of Konara.

Mob Holiday

Our first ever mob holiday was held at Bundilla in November. To support the Year of the Lifesaver we had a Beach theme which of course meant that it rained. In true scout tradition we carried on with all planned activities and all the 25 Joeys and their parents had a great time. Once again this activity was well planned by the leaders of the participating mobs.

Water Fun Day

This was another Region event that the Joey section promoted well and the Joeys and parents enjoyed the day on the water.

Joey badge work

Joeys are able to receive four participation badges and earn one individual challenge badge, the Promise badge. In 2007 GWS had 21 Joeys from 14 mobs achieve the Promise Challenge badge.

These Joeys and their parents and leaders are to be congratulated. The Promise Challenge has the Joey research the fundamentals of Scouting.

Wandarrahs

COMMUNICATION is important in all aspects of scouting. Our e-mail system and our website are very important tools for promotion of events. The GWSJoeys web site is also an excellent resource being used by leaders from many different regions.

Our monthly Region meetings, Wandarrahs, are well attended with all leaders getting the opportunity to contribute ideas.

The Joey section of Scouting is preparing to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the beginnings of Joeys in Australia. A "BIG PARTY" is planned Australia wide for the 1st July.

Kathy Cuneo

Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)



Lyn Mann (State Commissioner - Joey Scouts) with Joey from 1st Quakers Hill/Doonside at the 2007 Joey Scout Fun Day

CUB SCOUTS

What a great year it has been as we celebrated the Centenary of Scouting. The culmination of the year for our Cub Scouts was their attendance at the 3rd N.S.W. CUBoree. What a wonderful time we all had attending the fun and innovative bases at Newington Armoury, with visits to Bi-Centennial Park and the Olympic Pool. I know there were many exhausted leaders and Cub Scouts at the events conclusion. Thank you to all the Activity Leaders and Line Leaders who worked so hard to ensure our Cub Scouts have taken home lifelong memories.

Our Cub Scout Leadership Courses have continued to provide our young people the chance to develop leadership skills and share ideas with other Cub Scouts. Thank you to Westmead Pinnaroo who has led the cooking team for these courses.

The Cub Leaders of the Region had the opportunity to attend Palanee (a fun night of programme ideas) with its Circus theme an enjoyable night of brilliant ideas was shared by all.

The Cub Scout section also contributed some fabulous bases for our Region Birthday Celebrations in Parramatta Park. Everyone who attended had a marvellous time trying their hand at the bases and partaking of Birthday cake. Thank you to everyone who made this such a successful celebration.

It was great to see so many Cub Scouts at the Centenary Sunrise event at the Opera House; many had travelled from the far reaches of the region to attend. It was great to be part of such a memorable event.

The Districts too have been busy with Billy Cart Derbies, indoor rock climbing, Campfires, Hikes, Swimming Carnivals, Pack Holidays. It is also great to see districts involved in local festivals and events spreading the values Scouting has to offer everyone.

Congratulations to the following Cub Scouts who have earned the Grey Wolf Award – Jack Dicken, Ryan Tong, Clair Settree, Hannah Fung, Michael Threlfo, Jaymes Shrimski, James Butt, Oliver Robinson, Deborah Ewings, Rachel Ewings, Vaughn Majoor, Jordan Wearne, Finnian Ford, Rose Mercieca, Thomas Zierholtz, Taylor Eastwell, Connor Reynolds, Ethan Toft, Josiah Toft, Annalise Sollom, Megan Glacken, Michael Anderson, Alistair West, Joshua Wheeler, Russell Miles, Jessica White. Well Done!

My thanks to the District Cub Scout Leaders and Seeonee Leaders (Melissa Clarke, Lorraine Shaw, Phyllis McAlpine, Gavan Hall, Anne Thompson, Val Walker and Chris Casley) our scribe Betty Truscott and Shirley Robinson for their hard work and support this year.

Our party continues this year as we celebrate the Centenary of Scouting in Australia and it is fitting that while we take part in the festivities we take time to consider that we giving our Cub Scouts the vibrant and exciting programme that they deserve.

Remember – “It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.” (President Harry S Truman)

Patricia Shaw
Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts)

SCOUTS

Our Region Jamborette in June last year was severely affected by bad weather, the fringes of one of the worst storms Sydney has experienced. By Sunday afternoon most of the rain had gone and we had a very nice weekend. Being the Centennial year of Scouts, we had a large birthday cake which was cut by one of our oldest Scouts (Andy Walker) and one of our newest Scouts (Victoria Garrett). The cake was in the shape of the badge, which was in the shape of Brownsea Island. Badge design and theme were chosen by the Region PL Council.



The Region PL Council adopted most of the suggestions from the State PL Council for a Region Scout Youth Council (SYC) made up of PL's, APL's and an ordinary Scout from each District. On top of the



Jamborette Theme Gateways
Left - 1st Kings Langley
Below - 1st Baulkham Hills



District representation, is an executive of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary. A similar council will exist in each District with meetings being held at least each Term. The intention is to focus on having regular meetings to ensure information flows both up, down and across. Information needs to flow from the Troop Council through the District, Region and State, then back down again. Information also needs to flow across to/from the District, Region and State Mindari's. For this reason it is intended that a representation from the District and Region SYC will attend the leaders Mindari.

Since May last year we have had seven Scouts achieve the Scout Medallion and 10 Scouts achieve their Green Cords. The Medallion recipients are:

- Erica Barlow
- Cassie Ralph
- Scott Darragh
- Lachlan Hill
- Bethany Toft
- Kimberley Gash
- Myles Harris-Ayling (approved yet to be presented)

Bravo to all.

Robin Garrett
Region Commissioner (Scouts)

VENTURER SCOUTS

Over the last year the Venturer section have had an exciting time....

We have had our annual Waratah competition camp which this year was entitled "River Rats", involved units designing and building their own rafts to travel down the Hawkesbury River with challenging bases to complete along the way. This year West Pennant Hills Valley were the victors.

Teams on the Hawkesbury River during Waratah on the Hawkesbury River, November 2008.

RoVenture this year was held at Glenfield Scout Camp in July with a Country & Western theme. From this year it has become a combined activity between the Venturers and Rovers of GWS and also Hume Regions with the organisation rotating between the regions.

A variety of courses have been run through the year including Unit Management, Leadership and Initiative Courses for Venturers who are working towards their Queens Scout Awards or just to improve their time in Venturers. The Unit Management course is an introductory one day course for Venturers to begin to learn to take on the greater challenges of running themselves. The Leadership course is a full weekend course which takes this further. The Initiative course is an outdoors course where Venturers navigate through a remote area to be met by challenging bases along the way.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Kerriann Clarke (1st/2nd Merrylands), Cameron Foye (1st Blaxland), Jessica Micallef (1st Dural) and Sally Mills (1st Dural) who all achieved their Queens Scout Awards this year.

Mark Absalom
Region Commissioner (Venturers)



Queen Scout Award Presentations - L to R: Cameron Foye (1st Blaxland), Jessica Micallef (1st Dural) & Sally Mills (1st Dural)



Waratah (November 2008)

ROVERS

Through 2007/08, Roving in the Region have increased in numbers to around 120 rovers, crews that weren't so strong in numbers in one year have boomed.

GWS currently has 10 Rover Crews, With 1st North Mt Druitt starting up just recently, it has been a long road for them but is now finally reaping the rewards of being a crew of their own. Unfortunately the proposed crew at Leura fell though.

We have said goodbye last year to Jeff Rose who has been the Region Commissioner Rovers for many years. Jeff has moved on to bigger things at a state level becoming the Branch Commissioner Rovers and congratulations go out to Jeff and his future endeavours in his new role.

We have now got a new Region Commissioner Rovers and that is David Twist. David was an RA of Westmead Rovers who applied for the position - congratulations to David on his appointment.

The RRC Executive this year has quite a number of new faces to roles on the exec. These new faces are very keen to take on their new positions. It has taken a while to fill the whole exec but now we have, things are well under their way. The RRC goals for the year are to increase communications between the crews and the rest of the region, increasing numbers, improving Venturer/Rover relations and training.

GWS is once again joining with HUME region in running the Roventure - it is pirate themed and will be held at Glenfield in the first weekend of the coming school holidays.



Kings Langley Rover Crew was presented with a Lodge Baden Powell Award for Community Service (June 2008)



A congratulation to the entire Region's Rovers and the Crews that ran successful events in the 2007/08 period. Between Kings Langley's Formal Macca's Dinner, 1st Baulkham Hills "Lets get Physical Moot", and the upcoming GWS moot by Castle Hill called "Castle Moot", Roventure and all the crews who took the Balls of Steel, the Region ran some very successful events. Crews from within the Region also took on the opportunity to run Branch events and these included Branch Moot 08 who Kings Langley Rovers have taken on - good luck to them. Members of the Region are also running the 2008 Snowmoot.

GWS was also represented at various interstate events with a contingent to Mudbash from the Rover Scout Motorsports, a group making the trip to Surfmoort in Victoria. Two Rovers from within the Region also made the trek across the Tasman to attend the New Zealand National Moot.

Aussie Moot ran at the very start of the year saw 600 Rovers from all over the world attend this 2 week moot held at Cataract. A great time was had by all and also saw a strong contingent of GWS rovers attending.

Yours in Roving,

Phil Richards

Rover, 2nd Baulkham Hills Rover Crew
Region Rover Council Chairman 2007-08

Matthew Lee

Rover, 1st Blaxland Rover Crew
Region Rover Council Chairman 2008-09

David Twist

Region Commissioner (Rovers)

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS, 2007-2008



SILVER KOALA – For Distinguished Service

- BROWN, Ronald Stanley ----- District Commissioner, Holroyd District
- CASSIDY, Pamela Margaret ----- Assistant Joey Leader 1st Oakville Joey Mob
- STAPLES JP Allan Kevin ----- Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Troop



SILVER WATTLE – for Outstanding Service

- MORT, David Graham ----- Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Scout Troop “Bartoo”
- ROTHERY, Julie Ann ----- Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s) Scout Troop

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD – for Outstanding Service

- CARROLL, Dianne ----- Supporter, Greater Western Sydney Region



SILVER ARROWHEAD – for Excellent Service

- BRAZELL, Garry ----- Group Treasurer, 1st Toongabbie Scout Group
- BRIEN, Phillip Michael ----- Supporter, 1st Springwood Scout Group
- DRURY, Myriam Magna ----- Supporter, 2nd Northmead Scout Group
- HORNSTRA, Lars ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st 2nd Merrylands (St Anne) Scout Troop
- LATHAM, Roseanne Marie ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Toongabbie Joey Mob
- PAGE, Jennifer Anne ----- Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills Cub Pack, “Rumbriah”
- RAMSBOTTOM, Linda Ann ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Toongabbie Scout Troop
- RICHES, Gary Douglas ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Venturer Unit
- ROSE, Jeffrey Arthur ----- Region Comm (Rovers) Greater Western Sydney Region
- WARDELL Jennifer Ruth ----- Rover Adviser (Responsible) Kings Langley Rover Crew
- WOOD, Stuart Lyall, Cub Scout Leader ----- 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s) Cub Pack

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT – For Good Service

- ARMSTRONG, Mark Andrew ----- Group Manager, 1st Hazelbrook Scout Group
- BALDOCK, Rodney Phillip ----- Rover Advisor (Not Responsible) Hawkesbury River Crew
- CHAPMAN, Karen Margaret ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s) Joey Mob
- COFFILL Linda Gillian ----- Scout Leader, 1st Grose Vale Scout Troop
- DRURY, Robert John ----- Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Northmead Cub Pack
- FRANCIS, Timothy John ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s) Unit
- LEGG, Pauline ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st North Mt Druitt Cub Pack
- POLLOCK Frederick William ----- Assistant Scout leader, 2nd Kings Langley Scout Troop
- ROBINSON David Geoffrey ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Toongabbie Cub Pack
- SHAW, Lorraine Margaret ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Cub Pack
- WARDLE Karina Michelle ----- Assist. Joey Leader: 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s) Joey Mob
- WHEAT, Adam John ----- Scout Leader, 1st Leura Scout Troop
- YOUNG, Andrew James ----- Assistant Scout leader, 1st Grose Vale Scout Troop



AUSTRALIAN SCOUT MEDALLION

- Erica BARLOW ----- Scout, 1st Blaxland Scout Troop
- Cassie RALPH ----- Scout, 1st Hazelbrook Scout Troop
- Scott DARRAGH ----- Scout, 1st Blaxland Scout Troop
- Lachlan HILL ----- Scout, 1st Hazelbrook Scout Troop
- Bethany TOFT ----- Scout, 1st Springwood Scout Troop
- Kimberley GASH ----- Scout, 1st Hazelbrook Scout Troop
- Myles HARRIS-AYLING ----- Scout, 1st Leura Scout Troop



QUEENS’ SCOUT AWARD

- Kerriann CLARKE ----- Venturer, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s)
- Cameron FOYE ----- Venturer, 1st Blaxland Venturer Unit
- Jessica MICALLEF ----- Venturer, 1st Dural Venturer Unit
- Sally MILLS ----- Venturer, 1st Dural Venturer Unit



BADEN POWELL AWARD

- Aaron WARDLE ----- Rover, 1st Westmead Rover Crew

DISTRICT REPORTS

BLACKTOWN

The last 12 months have been very busy for Blacktown District. We have gained 2 new district team members, Lorraine Shaw as District Leader Cub Scouts, and Michael Richards as District Leader Training & Development. Michael is returning to Scouting after a four year break. Gary Rudd also transferred in as District Adviser, Gary is moving on as Rover Advisor to North Mount Druitt Rovers. We had our first team meeting in January 2008; each group was discussed for their needs and solutions.

The smallest section in the district is Joeys with only two groups running this section. We hope to improve this at the Blacktown City Festival at our promotional stall. The district has gained two new group leaders and two group managers, this leaves three groups with leaders-in-charge, and I hope to rectify this in the near future. North Mount Druitt Rovers are finally registered, making two Rover Crews in the district.

Our Venturers are growing with 4 units and doing all things Venturers do. The Scout section has been very busy under the leadership of Mark Fell as District Leader Scouts and Gary Rudd as District Advisor.

If I told you all the things the Scouts did, it would take two pages, so here are the highlights. The Region Jamborette saw Blacktown District with the biggest representation of any district within the Region. They showed their skills in camping in very adverse weather conditions. The annual district camp was a great success, being held at Berrima, in the beautiful southern highlands. The premier camping patrol was awarded to 1st Whalan.

The New Year kicked off with Slamboree and Blacktown district running the always popular 'Tower of Power' at the Royal Easter Show on Scout Day. A leadership course was well attended by the older Scouts.

Now for the Cub Scout, the biggest by five against the Scouts. The Cubs held a district camp at Glenrock, a district hike to the glow worm tunnel at Lithgow. They attended the Centenary of Scouting at Parramatta Park. They had a shakedown camp (prep for Cuboree) and the Cuboree was held at Newington and was a huge success. An annual event is the ever popular Billy Cart Derby. This years District Cub Camp was

at Cataract Scout Camp with 71 cubs and 18 leaders attending. Well done. We must not forget that each group has their section events as well.

Over the past year, approximately 35 new leaders have been interviewed for Blacktown (where they all are, I don't know).

Some groups are doing very well, while others are just coping, which is the case in all districts.

I would like to thank all the leaders in my district for their dedication and time they give to our youth members.

Sandra Parker
District Commissioner

BLUE MOUNTAINS

2007 has been a year of mixed fortunes in this, the extreme outpost of the Greater Western Sydney Region. On the downside, we saw the closure of the 1st Leura Scout group. This was particularly disappointing for me personally, as it was in Leura that I started my Scouting career, over twenty years ago. The Group has a long and proud history of providing quality Scouting for the youth of the upper Blue Mountains, over many tears. This now leaves us with only four Scout groups between the Nepean River and Mt. Victoria.

On a positive note these four groups have worked steadily during the year. The majority have recorded an increase in membership. Many youth members have achieved awards in their sections.

District events included a very successful Camp Fire celebrating 100 Years of Scouting in the grounds of 1st Springwood in August and also the Darling Harbour Centenary Extravaganza, at which some of our scouts were presented to the Governor of NSW.

Individual groups also provided a strong Scouting presence at many of the local festivals which form part of the culture of the various mountain villages. Scouting was also well represented at many of the ANZAC Day marches and services.

During the year, the District team was strengthened with the arrival of Melissa Clarke in the role of DLCS and right at year's end, we also welcomed Gayle Reid as DLAT&D.

Margaret Finch
Administrator, Blue Mountains District

HAWKESBURY

2008 started with a bang with our Founder's day Celebration at McQuade Park, Windsor, on a beautiful day. We were honoured to have our Mayor Bart Bassett and local members, Louise Markus and Ray Williams, join us for our Opening Parade. They then spent quite a long time visiting the activities – seeing the Scouts finish their rope bridge, watching the young people enjoying themselves on the horizontal bungee jumping and water rockets. Joeys and Cubs didn't miss out, as they (local members) spent time watching them enjoying the craft and the dry land boat race.

Once again, we had a stand at the Hawkesbury Show. Each group took their turn at maintaining the area. We had a lot of interest shown in the display from ex Scout members, prospective local members and visitors, from as far away as Melbourne. We took part in the Grand Parade and came away with the winning ribbon.

We had youth members represented at every ANZAC Service throughout the District, including Kurrajong, Glossodia, Wilberforce, Freeman's Reach, Richmond and Windsor. They looked very smart in their uniforms and represented the movement well.

Our annual Church Service to honour St George was run by the Cub Scout section and held at Windsor Uniting Church. This Service, which is held each year, is planned by a different Section and they choose the venue and order of Service. Our collection this year went to the Women's Cottage, who support special need families.

The Billy Cart Derby is always a hit with our members. They spend hours pulling their billy carts up a hill just to go down again! The leaders/adults race is very popular. Trophies are awarded to the highest point score in Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers as well as the Best Stack and overall Group Trophy.

Many Cub Scouts have attended the Leadership course and benefited from the program.

We were very proud to see two Cub Scouts receive their Grey Wolf Award.

Several Cubs attended the Cuboree at Newington Park.

Scouts from every Group took part in Nth Mets Scout Hike, which was held at Penrose State Forest with our leaders providing a base for the event.

Our numbers have fluctuated throughout the year, with numbers on the rise again.

Even though we are without a District Commissioner, each Leader wants the District to be the best it can and I believe our Leaders work together to achieve this end for the benefit of all the youth members in their care.

Phyllis McAlpine

District Leader Cub Scouts

HILLS SOUTH

Most groups have experienced growth over the last 12 months and all groups are getting new leaders to commence training.

In the last 12 months we have grown to 8 groups with the official re-opening of 1st Kellyville. After a successful Open Day at the start of 2007 to the eventual re-opening the group in August 2007. The group has continued to flourish with plenty of interest and plans are underway to open a Joey Mob shortly.

Joeys

Currently Hills has 3 Joey Mobs with the 4th about to open at Kellyville. All children appear to be having a wonderful time at the start of their scouting life with the leaders offering full programs.

Cubs

The majority of cub packs have experienced a growth not only in youth membership but also with leader appointments. The biggest event of the last 12 months being the Cuboree with approximately 45-50 youth, 15 adults and 6-10 venturers attending. Some packs are short of numbers but are trying to increase them. District camp has had to be postponed but it is still on the calendar for later in 2008. There have been a lot of combined pack activities between groups and the cubs continue to experience a wide and varied programme within their group.

2-3 Grey Wolf Awards during this time.

Scouts

Still are without a DSL but are all continuing to offer a varied and busy programme within all groups. The scout numbers vary throughout the groups, some

troops have experienced a growth in numbers and in others the numbers have slipped slightly. Activities over the past year – a Jamboree at the start of 2007, scout hikes and State rally. For those that braved the extreme weather in 2007 they enjoyed the Region Jamborette with 2nd Baulkham Hills winning the best gateway. All are currently preparing for the 2008 Jamborette.

Venturers

Unfortunately 1st Castle Hill Venturers had to close but we still have 4 Venturer units in operation at Dural, West Pennant Hills Valley, 4th Castle Hill and 2nd Baulkham Hills. All are having busy programmes and help out at other sectional activities such as Pack & Scout nights, Jamborettes and at Cuboree where they were about 10 Venturers attending as activity leaders. Although numbers are low they are continuing their scouting lives.

Rovers

Although not seen by many they have a very active programme with community service and helping other sectional activities eg security at the Jamborette & running their own activity. Plus they have participated in Aussie Moot & various other moots over the last 12 months. Some have taken on leadership roles within the district. Currently we have 3 crews.

Leaders

Since the passing of Ralph Jones we have appointed a new DL AT&D – Mrs Aafke Fatcher-Hall. Although there have been some resignations there has been an equal number (or more) of new leaders starting their leader training. One Woodbadge has been presented to Graham Cuneo.

HOLROYD

There have been some very hard decisions to be made during the last year to ensure that the members of this District receive the Scouting that they deserve, and to that end some changes have been made to achieve this.



Holroyd District Scouts march in the Holroyd Family Festival Parade

During the past year the Scouts of Holroyd have participated in the Holroyd Festival Parade, flown the Flag at the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremonies and also put on a display at the Australia Day Festivities at Merrylands Oval.

To all those youth members and leaders, who gave of their time to make these events a memorable one, thank you.

To the youth members, it is very pleasing to see the level of badge work being achieved in this District, keep up the good work.

Congratulations to all the Leaders of this District for the work that you have all put in to maintain the level of good Scouting being achieved in this District and special congratulations to those Leaders who received recognition in last years World Scout Day awards.

Ron Brown

District Commissioner

PARRAMATTA

Parramatta District has continued to grow over the past year with most groups increasing their numbers and becoming more active.

Some highlights of the past twelve months have been:

- A very successful open day was conducted by North Rocks and Ermington Groups on Founders Day weekend. a number of new members joined both groups
- The district swimming carnival was conducted at Granville pool in February 2008 and was run under a combined Cub and Scout Program. It was combined with a Founders Day ceremony and a good night was had by all.
- The Scout Section attended the GWSR Jamborette on the Queens Birthday long weekend even though it was probably the worst weather to hit Sydney in the past 12 months
- The Cub Section attended the Cuboree in October and by all reports the participants had a good time.
- The number of new leaders who have commenced their training for various groups in our district is pleasing. I have had the pleasure to observe many of them on the training courses. Keep up the good work.

- Groups participated in the Anzac Day Services at various locations.
- We have appointed Sandy Knox as our District Joey Leader and Charlene Bordley as the District Cub Leader. Welcome aboard to both. A special thank you must go to Val Walker for the assistance she has given during the period we have been without a DCSL. A big BRAVO to Val who can now put her feet up and relax.

A special thank you must go to all the leaders in the district for the amount of hard work they put in to give the very best scouting to our young people. Without these dedicated people we would not be able to operate as a volunteer association.

The aim for 2008 is to fill the remaining vacant positions on the district team to be able to better support the leaders and youth members of Parramatta District.

Neville Henderson

District Commissioner (Acting)

PENRITH CITY

Penrith City spent Australia day at the lakes promoting Scouting with water & land activities.

Many thanks to the outgoing District Commissioner Jeff Fairall, for all the hard work he has done in the District.

Sadly, we remember the passing of Brian Welna (Hawkeye) SL, who passed away during the 2007 Jamborette.

All Annual General Meetings in the Penrith District have now been completed successfully.

Penrith City has many new leaders who have completed their training over the past year. Congratulations to you all.

Groups are slowly building their participation in State, Region, District, and Group outdoor activities including camps, hikes, water & flying activities. This is great to see.

Thank you to all the leaders who willingly share their time to give our youth members 'Good Scouting'. I look forward to the year ahead.

Roger Hyatt

District Commissioner



ACTIVITIES

BOATING

Although weather was great numbers were down on previous years. I was wondering what was happening until the FUN Day in December when 200 plus turned up at Chipping Norton Lake for the biggest day on the water that we have had, appropriately for 100 years of Scouting. We had power boats towing DONUTS sailing boats and canoes. Groups used this day as an end of season and christmas gathering for their groups. Springwood even copied the idea and ran a succesfull day at Wentworth Falls lake. We have had several canoe courses at Wentworth Falls, but during the winter months, it's not the place to be.

We have run most of our canoe courses at Chipping Norton and Kissing Point Park Putney, and all have been well attended. We cancelled 1 sailing course because of lack of interest in October but had a record 15 people from Blacktown for our sailing course in the January school holidays.

RADIO AND SCIENCE

Our Radio and Science team continues to be booked out months ahead and sometimes the team turns up to the suprise of the section leader who had completely forgot. Radio and science also attend every activity they have been asked to attend including, Joey fun day, Cub fun day, Jamborette, boating fun day and always have something interesting to offer our youth members.

CAVING

Caving is run by the Carey Barlow family and as well as running certificate course have taken Scouts that have qualified to new areas as trips for new adventures in caves. There has been a new qualification added to caving for those people who do not wish to abseil. The qualification is HORIZONTAL CAVER, leader and instructor.

Rick Jamieson continues to lead canyon trips with Peter Coffill, Fred Kaltenbacher who is recovering from a nasty spill off a motorbike now is back at work but not abseiling as yet.

I would like to thank all those leaders that helped on all our courses, Mick Fry whose contacts helped with the purchase of replacement abseil and caving gear, Alan Sprouls who did major repairs to all our trailers, Bruce Brigden who kept our boat trailers on the road

by repairing bearings that always seemed to fail on sailing courses, and some welding as well.

I would like to thank all the region office staff for all their help for we would not have qualifications without Jan, or adverts in the bulletin without Anne.

I would like to thank Frank Barr for looking after bushwalking and running Rock Activities while Rick has been away.

I would like to thank the boat team of John Van Den Burg and Martin Mahoney for the full year of work with a small team an outstanding job.

Keith Travers

Region Commissioner (Activities)

BUSHWALKING

A total of 38 certificates were issued this year with the details shown in the accompanying table. The Scout Bushwalking Policy has now been in place for nearly eight years. An important component of the policy is the gaining of qualifications based on previous experience. Most Leaders now ensure that youth members maintain a suitable log to make both the initial award and renewal easy to apply for.

Bushwalking continues to be conducted in a safe manner within GWS. Overnight hikes completed include a number of Venturer expeditions level 1 and 2 as well as green cord hikes. All 2007 walks were completed without major incidents.

Mt Solitary, located within Jamieson Valley near Katoomba, appears to be the favourite overnight Scouting destination in 2007. It is accessible from both Katoomba and Wentworth Falls. Scouting participants generally complete a round trip rather than the out and back backpacker day walk. It is also becoming a popular backpacker overnight destination. Consequently, there is considerable pressure on popular Mt Solitary camping sites especially Chinamans Creek.

The removal of the Grose Valley in general and Blue Gum Forest in particular from the bushwalking scene for the entire 2007 season has placed a lot of pressure on other destinations. NPWS have closed Blue Gum due to bushfire damage. This has removed a number of Grose Valley entry/exit walks including Victoria Falls, Evans Lookout, Perrys Lookdown and Lockkeys Pylons. One big advantage with Blue Gum was the different route options available depending

on prevailing conditions and transport requirements. Hopefully the Grose Valley area will be opened again to the general public in the near future.

During the coming year, it is hoped to encourage overnight options other than those outlined above. We visit meetings within GWS when invitations are given. These include youth meetings, mindaries and venturer councils. This can be to present certificates or talk about bushwalking options and how to go about it. Leaders are encouraged to use our resources and keep the invitations coming. This will enable us to spread the word and increase the interest in the outing component of Scouting.

Details of assessments are:

Award / Appointment	Preliminary Bushwalking Leader	Bushwalking Leader	Bushwalking Instructor	Bushwalking Examiner
Scouts	6	10		
Venturers		1		
Rovers		1		
Leaders		16	3	1
Total	6	28	3	1

Frank Barr

Region Bushwalking Activities Coordinator

RADIO, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Presenting the Science night programs, every week, has been the main thrust of this Activity for the last three years. We continue to develop and deliver interesting science based nights for all sections.

This last year we have organised to see two sections on the same night, i.e. Joeys followed by Cubs or Cubs followed by Scouts. This has worked well and means that the team only has one late night a week, but sees twice as many scouts.

This year we have presented some Science nights to Rovers. This has been possible because they meet on Sundays or over school holidays. I think we have been reasonably successful, but I realise we will have to produce heavier duty science to impress this age group.

You can see that this Activity is not only doing double shift to see more Joeys, Cubs and Scouts, but working

weekends and school holidays as well, in an effort to visit as many of our youth during the year. The frustrating part is that we are booked up till this time next year (2009), and some Groups will still not see us.

JOTA is driven by enthusiastic Leaders. Too often it is left up to one Leader to put together the same as he did last year. I think I have shown that scouts respond to a weekend of well organised activities, including Radio and Internet, if the Leaders plan different programs and locations each year.

Radio operators are also a critical part of JOTA. We are lucky in GWS to have three active clubs. The Blue Mountains club meets in the Blaxland Scout hall and is particularly active in radio classes for the Foundation Licence. Both Karl and I achieved the licence through them this year. They are keen to interact with scouts in the area.

This year we have had the welcome assistance of Mick Arnsby on Science Activity nights, when it didn't clash with his 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout night.

Thanks to Andy Walker, Karl Humphries, Mick Arnsby and Murray Irwin for their enthusiasm in expounding the science of nature to our youth, to the Section Leaders who offered support and advice, and to Leaders and Amateur Radio operators supporting JOTA in the GWS Region.

John Leahy

Activity Leader



CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

During last year we increased publicity to Scout Groups but the percentage of audience attending the performances from the Scout Family has declined whilst the number of uniform members in the Greater Western Sydney Region has in fact increased. Unfortunately some leaders are unable to see the benefits gained by the youth member, through their association with Gang Show and also fail to take advantage of an activity for their section during the school holiday period and also as a fund raising activity.

Aside from the above, another great year for Cumberland Gang Show (Our 38th season) with 10 spectacular performances at Parramatta Riverside Theatres during the July school holidays.

The show featured many new items written by our talented gang members and probably the highlight of the season was the excellent singing from the cast members. A total audience of over 6500 people enjoyed the show and many commented this was the best show ever.

During the past 12 months our workshop teams have recommenced visiting both Scout and Guide sections, running the program for the night and giving the youth members an insight to performing arts. Each team is made up of 3 – 4 gang members and the size of the groups varies between 15 and 30 youth members.

Season 2008 has started with a “bang” with the first rehearsal in March held at Muirfield High School at North Rocks. The day was run as a performing arts workshop/fun day with a performance for the parents during the evening session.

The two rehearsal camps have been held and the show is now in the polishing stage heading towards the performance season at Parramatta Riverside Theatres during the July school holidays. In fact today is the final rehearsal prior to moving into the theatre next weekend.

Opening Night 2008 will once again be a Gala Opening and we look forward to a full house to give the cast a big boost for the performances to follow.

Congratulations to Dianne Carroll, Jenny Wardell, Fred Pollock, Lorainne Shaw, Karina Wardle and Andrew Young who were all recognised in the 2007 World Scout Day Awards. Well done to you all.

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. Also who could forget the assistance given to us by the two Jans at Bundilla who are always willing to assist when asked.

Yours in Scouting

Neville Henderson

Human Resources Director



ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Changes

Yes 2007 was another year for some changes. After April 2007 all trainee leaders were automatically appointed as Associate Leaders after completing their Basic leadership 1 course.

This meant on completion of Training for section appointment a W3 form for transfer of Appointment was needed

After the successful Easter course at Pennant Hills where the AL2 and AL3 were combined it was decided that it would be repeated in 2008 then every alternate year from that point.

A number of leaders have taken up the challenge and found this a better approach to complete their Advanced Training

The rebate scheme for leaders completing Basic or Advanced training was extended to 2010 . A very positive incentive.

Training new leaders

Introductory Interviews have been held the first Thursday of the month at Bundilla now for some time. Groups are now in a pattern of organising this into their calendars although 5 Thursdays in one month does trick some people.

These nights have been well attended throughout the past year and I thank all Groups who have supported their new leaders by being in attendance on the night. The average night had 15 new leaders present.

Introductory kits must be purchased from our Region Office before the night and looked through as there are some things that require attention before our night.

Thankyou to all who have helped on these nights to make it a success.

Final Interview nights

This occurs the fourth Thursday of the month at Bundilla.

This night was originally set up for new leaders completing their training for appointment to a section but as more people have applied for Distance Learning

and others have done their Advanced Training it has become more a HELP night. People regularly come for help expecting to go away and complete more but after sitting down with us and spending a little time working through these questions and the paperwork they have found "wow" everything is in order and completed. They have a lighter walk and even a skip back to the car after hearing that is all that now needs to be done by them.

Thank you to all have been coerced into spending some time on these nights when numbers are more than expected, and to those who regularly assist, a special thank you and Bravo for your time and patience on this night. To all who have completed training in the past 12 months whether Basic or Advanced welcome aboard and congratulations.

District Teams

With the passing of Ralph Jones in May last year a huge gap was left in the Hills District.

Aafke Fatcher-Hall put her hand up and subsequently has completed training for this role welcome aboard and thankyou Aafke

Michael Richards was encouraged at a Joey Fun Day to join the team and has begun his training as DLT for Blacktown. Thankyou Mike

Gayle Reid has been making a difference in the mountains District and it has been exciting to see movement up there occurring. It had been very quiet for quite some time. Thankyou Gayle for all your time and hard work.

At the time of writing this I have been informed that Gayle has tended her resignation so it is with some sadness that I write this.

This District now joins the other Districts without a DLT

Terry Darragh has stepped in to assist Penrith District. People may or may not be aware that Adam Kelly moved to the South Coast at the beginning of 2007 and did try to carry on his role but unfortunately time and Distance became a problem so a big Bravo and thankyou for all your hard work and time Adam.

Training Courses

A big Bravo and thankyou to Jeff Hook for his continued support in this area. Advanced courses and Rovers benefit from Jeff's vast knowledge expertise and professionalism.

Congratulations to Terry Darragh who has been appointed as an Assistant Leader Trainer. This means that Terry can now be a Course Leader for the Basic Training Courses.

The following people also need a big thankyou for their valuable assistance on the training courses as an assessor or session leader or general assistant. : Sandra Parker, Kathy Cuneo, Neville Henderson, Robin Garrett, Anne Thompson, Frank Barr, Gayle Reid, Col Nicholl., and Adam McLean (I hope that I have not left any one out please forgive me)

The extra thank yous

Over the 12 months there are people who are there when you most need them.

They don't complain they just turn up help out and go.

Thank you to Neville Henderson who with all his hats added an extra one when I was out of action for 8 weeks, to Kathy Cuneo, who stepped in early last year and continued helping, a great big HOP HOP HOP for your invaluable assistance on those nights when there were people who just kept walking through the door for assistance

To my team thank you for your hard work time and suggestions for making it easier for the leader to complete training

Of course I cannot forget Jan Carter in the office who keeps me on the straight and narrow working tirelessly with the paperwork process and enquiries.

Ann Pounder

Region Commissioner
(Adult Training & Development)



GWSR Woodbadge Recipients for 2007

A number of people completed their Advanced Training in 2007 and were awarded their Woodbadge. For some it was a second, third or even 4th as they have taken on different roles within scouting over the years and completed their respective Advanced Training for their current role

I have attempted to compile a list of Woodbadges awarded in Greater Western Sydney Region in 2007 As it was the centenary of Scouting worldwide it made it just a little bit more special.

GWSR Woodbadge Recipients for 2007

Joey Section

Sandra Knox
Cassie Rec

Cub Section

Kathryn Mahns
Christine Casley
Scott Leacy

Scout Section

Alan Bone
Terry Darragh

Venturer Section

Bruce Wells
Adam McLean

Rover Section

David Twist

Group Leader

Graham Cuneo
Tracey Hansford

Leader of Adults

Jeff Rose
Ann Pounder

Activity

John Leah

INTERNATIONAL

The International Team has continued to maintain a high profile in promoting International Scouting within our Region.

Displays on International Scouting were presented at the following activities :

- Region Jamborette, Bents Basin
- Centenary of Scouting, Parramatta Park
- State Konara, Pennant Hills
- 3rd NSW Cuboree, Newington Armoury
- Australia Day, Merrylands Park

Unfortunately we still have been unsuccessful in our Tasman Scout & Venture Exchange program

On attendance in International Activities we have been successful in seeing 18 of our Uniform members participating as follows :

65th New Zealand Rover Moot –

- Lindsay Richmond 2nd Baulkham Hills Rover Crew
- Andrew Whiddon 2nd Castle Hill Rover Crew

21st World Scout Jamboree, United Kingdom (Comprising 4 Leaders, 4 Scouts & 5 Venturers)

- Andrew Anderson 2nd Kings Langley
- Christopher Anderson 2nd Kings Langley
- Jessica Anderson 2nd Kings Langley
- Gregory Gardner 2nd Kings Langley
- Craig Kokay 1st Parramatta
- Chris McEwan 1st Winston Hills
- Luke Saunders 1st Winston Hills
- David Shaw 1st Kings Langley
- Robert Slater 2nd Baulkham Hills
- Andrew Thompson 1st/2nd Merrylands
- Danny Van Zyl 2nd Kings Langley
- Aaron Wardle 1st/2nd Merrylands
- Andrew Whiddon 2nd Castle Hill

NB : Four of our youth members were successful with their application for assistance from the John & Marie Hill Trust Fund



Gilwell Reunion, Chingford, United Kingdom

- Peter Nickl RC International
- Sue Kebblewhite Pinnaroo Fellowship

5th APR Scout Youth Forum & 22nd APR Scout Conference, Japan

- Aaron Wardle 1st/2nd Merrylands

NB : Aaron Wardle was the facilitator at the 5th APR Scout Youth Forum

In addition to the above two were involved overseas as follows

- Ron Brown (DC Holroyd)
France & United Kingdom
- Peter Nickl (RC International)
Hong Kong

(Correction from 2007 report, I had inadvertently left Kerriann Clarke, 1st/2nd Merrylands off the list of participants to the 10th New Zealand Venture)

At the Regions' awards dinner, I did a presentation of the Gilwell Reunion for the 100 years of Scouting at Chingford.

Again with the support assistance, commitment & encouragement from members of my team we have been able to achieve a great International understanding & presence for our Region.

In closing, on behalf of the International Team I must thank Jan Carter for all her assistance throughout the year & Jan Playford for her continued support of International Scouting.

Peter Nickl
Region Commissioner (International)



SCOUT FELLOWSHIPS

HAWKESBURY BLACK HORSE SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

It gives me pleasure in submitting the Presidents Report for 2007 to the Annual General Meeting from the Black Horse Scout Fellowship.

Since our first official meeting Feb 2007 the Fellowship has been busy at various Branch, Region and District Activities. You might say we have been there but not seen as we blend in with all the other leaders.

Our members have assisted in the Slam boree, World Scout Day, Church Parade, Jota, Cuboree, Jamborette, Branch Rally and the Ute Muster, Hawkesbury Show

Our membership increased slightly during the year, but we need to undergo a recruitment drive. We attended World Scout Day in the hope of attracting new members from invitations that were sent out from the Groups in the District to former Scout Leaders. A few former members attended but we were not successful in signing any.

Our mix of a social night each second month is a great success, a chance to discuss matters on an informal basis.

The fellowship will be the caterers at the Branch Rally 2008. The fellowship will also be assisting in the Kids Charity Ute Muster during Aug 2008 which will bring necessary funds and attract new members.

Ian Cartwright

Chairperson

Black Horse Scout Fellowship



What is Scout Fellowship?

Scout Fellowship is designed to provide opportunities for members to enjoy mutual fellowship, maintain active membership within the Scout Movement and continue the ideals of service to Scouting and the Community.

The principle aims of the Scout Fellowship are...

- To retain existing Members
- To attract new Members
- To provide a social peer network

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship has consolidated during the past twelve months with a membership of 20. Whilst the overwhelming number of members are involved in the crew of Cumberland Gang Show, we continually seek to expand our membership base.

The Fellowship activity has flourished over the past year as a result of our planning picnic at the beginning of the year. Business meetings occurred in the even months and social events in the odd months.

The Fellowship commenced interviews with several founders of Cumberland Gang Show in preparation for a history of Cumberland Gang Show for the 40th year of the show in 2009. Their enthusiasm, drive and organisational skills were most apparent. Further interviews will occur throughout this year with the aim of having the project completed on schedule.

Our social program included attendance at the Holroyd Musical Society's performance of Fiddler on the Roof in May, a show recovery dinner in July, a weekend visit to Mudgee in September, another enjoyable Christmas dinner held in November and a visit to the Whispering Bones tour of All Saint's cemetery at North Parramatta.

In November we also held a trivia night, two weeks before the Federal election. It was a great success with 60 people enjoying the evening and taking away good prizes. The money raised will help to meet the costs of our history project.

Many of our members are also active in other Scouting appointments. Several participated in support of 1st Iluka Scout Group in hall maintenance. Some members provided support to the Joey Scout Konara, the National Rover Moot, Dragon Skin, the Billy Cart Derby at Rooty Hill and Region celebrations of 100 years of Scouting. Holroyd District members participated in the Holroyd Australia Day Celebrations and flag raising. Jeanie Wood, our secretary, was chosen to be presented to the Governor on the evening of Australia Day at Darling Harbour when the first official activity was held to celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Australia. Sharon Douglass, our treasurer, was awarded the Silver Koala in the 2007 World Scout Day Awards.

I believe that the Fellowship is well positioned to continue for an exciting 2008-2009.

Lyall Wood

Chairperson

Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship

PINNAROO SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

Welcome to 100 years of Australian Scouting. As a Section that gives valuable service to Scouting and the community I feel very proud and privileged to belong to Pinnaroo where many of our members hold multiple positions in other sections and are still willing to support Scouting and the community through Pinnaroo Fellowship.

On the service side our tasks were many and varied. These included:-

- The World Centenary of Scouting Day at Parramatta Park
- Region Cub Scout Leadership Courses
- 1st Engadine Cub Pack
- Bundilla
- Cuboree at Newington
- Konara
- Region Jamborette

Members also attended and assisted the Gilwell Reunion at Bundilla where one of our members spoke and gave a good insight into the world of Scout Fellowship.

One of our members also had the privilege to be at the Gilwell Reunion during the Centenary Jamboree in England where 4,000 Gillwillians were present.

We also flew the flag at the Holroyd Family Festival where Scouts led the march. The community also benefited as we had members again pack for the Samaritans Purse which benefits youth in overseas countries.

Christmas time again saw us entertaining the residents at The Southern Cross Nursing Home. Our repertoire included solo instrumentals which were well received by the audience as well as the fellow carolers. At the end of the carols we distributed small gifts to the residents and assisted with supper. The evening concluded with a Christmas gathering at the house of one of our members.

All work makes Jack a dull boy so we broke the monotony with a weekend away at Shoal Bay and another at Nth Avoca as well as having Christmas in July at the Carrington at Katoomba. We all felt important as we had this magnificent room all to ourselves.

As chairman I would like to thank firstly all members for their continued support and hard work, secondly to thank Region and 1st Westmead Group for their valued assistance, allowing Pinnaroo to support Scouting.

Peter Stieme

Chairperson

Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship



BUNDILLA

Another year passes at Bundilla and a few things have changed. In November 2007 our Caretakers Russell & Katrina Morgan moved into their own home. Whilst it was great to see them more settled it has meant that Bundilla has been without caretakers for about 7 months. Due to changes in tenant procedure it has been difficult to find replacements.

We have managed with a dedicated team of Bundy Clubbers, who meet every couple of months to do a really big cleanup. The Club is growing and I thank each and every one of you.

The bookings are coming in at a steady pace thankfully, and are diversified as ever. One of the more consistent hirers are from St John Ambulance who come for 3 days on a monthly basis, they run their Remote Courses.

During the coming year there will need to be some very expensive maintenance. At least \$25,000 for tree lopping and removal. Plumbing well that could be about \$50,000 and a major disruption.

Not to worry, I have faith that we will get it done, however it would be good to have a few more volunteers to help with the clean-ups.

I am so blessed to be employed at Bundilla. I thank you, the Lorikeets, Galahs, Cockatoos, Kookaburras, Rosellas, Kingfishers, Wild Ducks, King Parrots, and Satin Bowerebirds thank you as well. Oh yes the 3 lizards and a Red Belly Snake thank you also.

Jan Carter (Jan the Elder)
Centre Manager

REGION OFFICE MANAGER

I bet you are thinking why are we paying the salary for the Bundilla Centre Manager when she has all those "furry feathered friends" to keep her company each day. You too can enjoy them as much as I do, it helps when things get hectic especially around Group AGM time, our very own AGM, the Region Jamborette etc. etc. etc.

My services as Members Support person has been considerable and it is a real privilege to "just be there", share a tissue or two, have a cuppa with my Scouting friends and at times their families.

There will be many changes to the administration side of things when Project STAR goes live, so please embrace it's implementation. We said farewell to 5 (so far) State Headquarters paid staff Sue Nicholson, Lesley Lisle, Kerry Laman and Carole Reece and Lowela Rynas, each and every one of them have helped me personally as well as all the Groups in GWS. There will be more farewells to come soon.

My door is always open to help Groups with their paperwork or if they are unsure of how things are done or need a favor.

I must say a big thanks to all the Commissioners, you all work so hard for the line leaders who then pass their expertise on to our youth.

I mustn't forget to thank my Office Junior Anne, it is a delight to have her ginger chocolates, errrr I mean her company. Anne is a great asset to the Region Office and Scouting in general.

Jan Carter
(Jan the Elder)
Region Office Manager



Bundilla from the air. Photo: Google Earth

SCOUTS ON THE WEB

Scouts Australia

www.scouts.com.au

Scouts Australia - NSW

www.nsw.scouts.com.au

Rovers Australia

www.rovers.com.au

NSW Rovers

www.nswrovers.com.au

GWSR Rovers

www.gwsrovers.com.au

GWSR Joeys

www.gwsjoey.org.au

Cumberland Gang Show

www.gangshow.asn.au



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Stay tuned for more information
about the new GWSR website...
coming soon!

THE GROUPS AND CREWS OF 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 Leura Scout Group
1st Springwood Scout Group

Blacktown District

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

Hawkesbury District

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

Hills South District

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

Holroyd District

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

Parramatta District

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

Penrith City District

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

Scout Fellowships

Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship
Hawkesbury Black Horse Scout Fellowship
Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship



SCENES FROM THE 21ST WORLD JAMBOREE



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Greater Western Sydney Region**

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