



Scouts Australia - NSW
Greater Western Sydney Region
63rd Annual Report
2010



SCOUTS
AUSTRALIA

Building a Better Future Today

www.greaterwestscouts.com.au



GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION INVITES ALL JOEYS, CUBS, SCOUTS, VENTURERS, ROVERS, LEADERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO ATTEND OUR

BIG DAY IN

SUNDAY 1ST AUGUST 2010



Bundilla Scout Camp
6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills

10.00am to 3.00pm



Face Painting ★ Jumping Castle ★ Fun At The Fair ★ Market Place ★ Food & Drink Stalls
Giant Slide ★ Flying Fox ★ Fairy Floss ★ Craft ★ Obstacle Course ★ And much more!



Pre-register with GWS Region Office (Bundilla) by the 9th July 2010.
Each person will get a special badge, and free lucky door ticket! Admission: \$5.00 per person.

Greater Western Sydney Region Team 2009-2010

- Region President ----- Alan Overton AM
- Region Chairman ----- Geoff McGrath
- Region Treasurer ----- Lorraine Joiner
- Region Commissioner ----- Neville Henderson
- Region Office Staff ----- Jan Carter / Anne Thompson /
Kim Harris / Maggi Roynon

Region Commissioners

- Joey Scouts ----- Kathy Cuneo
- Cub Scouts ----- Patricia Shaw
- Scouts ----- Robin Garrett
- Venturer Scouts ----- Aaron Wardle
- Rovers ----- David Twist
- Activities ----- Keith Travers
- Adult Training & Development ----- Ann Pounder
- International ----- Peter Nickl
- Special Projects ----- Mark Fell

District Commissioners

- Blacktown ----- Sandra Parker
- Blue Mountains ----- Paul Roach
- Hawkesbury ----- Mary Garrett (Acting)
- Hills South ----- Gavan Hall
- Holroyd ----- Ron Brown
- Parramatta ----- Tracey Hansford (Acting)
- Penrith City ----- Roger Hyatt / Rodney Lean

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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.

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

**Minutes of the Annual Scout Council Meeting held at George Kendall Riverside Park - Ermington
on Sunday 5th July 2009 commencing at 12.00 noon.**

PRESENT: Region Chairman Geoff McGrath and others as per attendance book.
APOLOGIES: As per names listed on Agenda.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting were circulated and confirmed as correct.

2. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mrs. Jan Playford, Region Commissioner

To move the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements
Mr. Neville Henderson
Deputy Region Commissioner

To second the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements
Mrs. Lorraine Joiner
Region Treasurer

ADDRESS BY the Honourable Maxine McKew MP Member for Bennalong

3. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

REGION PRESIDENT	Mr. A Overton AM
REGION CHAIRMAN	Mr. G W McGrath
REGION TREASURER	Mrs. L Joiner
TRUSTEES	Region Commissioner Mr. G W McGrath Mr. E Norval

4. ELECTION OF MEMBERS – REGION COUNCIL

Mr. L Wood AM RFD	Mr. P Nickl	Mr. E Norval
Mr. P Stieme	Mr. G McGrath	

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. L Wood AM RFD	Mr. P Nickl	Mr. E Norval
Mr. P Stieme	Mr. G McGrath	Mr. B Lansley

6. DELEGATES TO NSW BRANCH COUNCIL

Region Commissioner	Region President	Region Chairperson
Mr. L Wood AM RFD	Mr. E Norval	

ADDRESS BY Mr. Grant De Fries – Chief Commissioner of NSW

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm followed by refreshments. Guests were invited to look around 1st Ermington's Venturing Out community event.

REGION COMMISSIONER

It gives me great pleasure to present the 63rd annual report of Greater Western Sydney Region. Our region consists of 46 active groups at present after 1st North Richmond amalgamated with 1st Grose Vale. Over the past 12 months we have looked at the properties from closed groups which are on the region books and have looked at future use of these buildings. Some have already been returned to state for disposal or return to the land owners.

In November 2009, Jan Playford decided to step down from the Region Commissioners role after three years and I agreed to take over in order to carry on the work that Jan had started. She agreed to become an Honorary Commissioner and recently agreed to form a Bundilla Committee to look after the well being of our camp site. Jan has also remained on the Scoutsafe Committee as a representative of Greater Western Sydney Region. We wish Jan well in the future and appreciate her past efforts and guidance.

Our region consists of seven Districts, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Hills, Holroyd, Parramatta and Penrith. We welcomed Rod Lean as the District Commissioner for Penrith but are still looking for District Commissioners for Hawkesbury and Parramatta.

For the second year in a row, we gained adult leaders, which is great, but our youth numbers remained fairly static. Normally after a Jamboree year our youth numbers tend to fall but it is pleasing that this has not happened in 2009/2010. Many of our groups boast growing numbers and whilst this is a tremendous achievement it is now up to us all to make sure that the trend continues.

Late last year we said farewell to our Region Office Manager, Jan Carter, who had been with us for 16 years and there has been a restructure at Region Office. Kim Harris and Maggi Roynon (both of whom have scouting backgrounds) joined us in February and now work two days each. They have proved popular with the visitors to Bundilla and we look forward to them being part of Bundilla for many years to come. I must thank Anne Thompson who helped me to keep the office running prior to the ladies starting with

us, and is now assisting them to get used to the way scouting runs. Bravo Anne.

We have also welcomed aboard our new caretakers, Adele and Michael Lockman, who both have scouting experience and have great plans for Bundilla. It is pleasing to drive in the front gate and see lights on in the house. Once again we look forward to having you with us for some time to come.

Speaking of Bundilla.... We were lucky to receive a grant from the Federal Government to upgrade the facilities which includes repairing the damage caused to the Gilwell Hut by the termites. At the time of writing the rectification work is completed, most of the buildings have been freshly painted and the sewer has been replaced. Hopefully by the time you read this the carpet will be down and the air conditioning will be installed. We have noticed the increase in scout related bookings for the camp and if you have not

tried camping here, give it a go in the next year. Thanks also to the people who have attended our Bundy Club working bees over the past year.

I am extremely lucky to have a stable team of Commissioners who are all keen to work hard and support their leaders and the youth members in their section. Mark Fell has joined the region team as Region Commissioner Special Duties, I welcome him aboard and look forward to working with him.



Geoff McGrath has been building his Executive Council and during the year said farewell to Ted Norval, who has represented Blacktown for many years and at the same time welcomed Paul Thompson (Holroyd), Harry Anderson (Blacktown) and Michael Majoor (Parramatta) to our Executive. Thanks for the work you did for scouting in the past Ted. Lorraine Joiner does a fantastic job as our Region Treasurer, Pam Garske as our minutes taker, Alan Overton our Region President and the other members of the Executive Committee for your support of Geoff McGrath and scouting in general.

The planning committee for the Big Day In on 1 August 2010 have been hard at work and planning is in the final stages for this event. Hope to see you all on the Big Day.

It is hard to operate without a good team around

you and my team is a special bunch of people who are dedicated to their duties and perform at an exceptionally high standard. Every section is running smoothly with activities geared to the age of the participants and you will see from the reports how busy they are. The activity team may be small but they provide interesting activities to the youth members and also to Cumberland Gang Show who provide the performing arts skills to our members.

Finally I thank all the leaders and volunteer supporters in the region for their assistance in providing good scouting to our youth members. Whether you wear a uniform or not, your dedication and time is what keeps Scouting going forward and we couldn't do without you.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Neville Henderson
Region Commissioner



BUNDILLA

Region Office Opening Hours

Monday - Closed

Tuesday to Thursday - 9.00am to 3.30pm

Friday - 10.00am to 4.30pm

For all enquiries call (02) 9639 2488 or email
gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au

All forms for training courses and other Region events are available from the Region website. Closing dates are listed in the Region Calendar or on the activity notification forms provided. Please read all information thoroughly as not all applications are submitted to the Region Office. You can also help by ensuring that all paperwork is complete and that forms are submitted on time to avoid disappointment. Remember, no late applications will be accepted!

Information about camping and accommodation facilities at Bundilla is now also available on the Region website. Bundilla is becoming increasingly busy and it is important that all bookings are made early to guarantee availability for your chosen dates.

We look forward to meeting with everyone soon!

Kim Harris, Maggi Roynon and Anne Thompson
Region Office Staff



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 2010

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	Administration		
	<i>Income</i>		
3,220	Saleable Items Income	1,134	1,500
20	Donation and Grants	100	80
-	Sundry Income	461	-
<u>3,240</u>		<u>1,695</u>	<u>1,580</u>
	<i>Expenditure</i>		
46,111	Salaries and On Costs	60,374	49,129
-	Staff Recruitment	2,306	-
-	Awards, Badges & Scarves	68	500
1,100	Computer Expenses	-	996
2,650	Depreciation	3,083	1,417
1,097	Meeting/Award Dinner Expenses, net of receipts	(2,627)	2,329
44	Postage	185	550
1,768	Printing & Stationery	2,966	3,500
1,095	Repairs & Maintenance	2,858	2,310
1,162	Saleable Items Cost	1,061	600
-	Security of Premises	275	1,000
1,214	Telephone	1,477	2,196
926	Sundry Expense	6,328	396
<u>57,167</u>		<u>78,354</u>	<u>64,923</u>
<u>(53,927)</u>	Net Administration Cost	<u>(76,659)</u>	<u>(63,343)</u>
730	Development & Promotion	427	1,112
<u>(28,147)</u>	Camps & Activity Centres		
<u>(28,147)</u>	Bundilla	<u>12,313</u>	<u>(73,856)</u>
		<u>12,313</u>	<u>(73,856)</u>
	Scouting Activities		
863	RC Section - Joeys	421	294
1,503	RC Section - Cubs	(2,617)	106
7,819	RC Section - Scouts	10,077	51
3,858	RC Section - Venturers	962	44
(110)	RC Section - Rovers	(78)	(78)
7,623	RC Section - Activities	3,892	1,244
(173)	RC Section - Others	295	(390)
(156)	International Section	-	(156)
(5,679)	Gang Show	1,467	5,862
194	Districts	(140)	(312)
<u>15,742</u>		<u>14,279</u>	<u>6,665</u>
3,195	Leader Training	3,043	(34)
<u>(2,519)</u>	Property	<u>(3,828)</u>	<u>(5,149)</u>
<u>(64,926)</u>	Net Region Cost of Operation	<u>(50,425)</u>	<u>(134,605)</u>

Above summary is an extract from the audited accounts of The Scout Association of Australia, NSW Branch, for the year ended 31st March 2010

Lorraine Joiner
Regional Treasurer

Adam Buckle, CPA
Hon Treasurer, NSW Branch

SECTION REPORTS

Joey Scouts

During 2009 the aim was to encourage the Joey Scout mobs in the Region to incorporate extra outdoor activities into their programs. We ran a number of Region events to help with this project.

In first term the Region team ran a Water Fun Day at Chipping Norton which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

At the end of May we ran a Medieval Fun Day at Bundilla. Although it was an overcast, damp day over 140 Joey Scouts, accompanied by leaders and parents, dressed up in appropriate costumes to participate in a variety of activities. We were able to use all planned activities and the Joey Scouts had a great time.

Term 3 was time for the mobs to run their own event with help and training from the region. All mobs were encouraged to participate in a nature walk to earn the "Trek About" badge. Many mobs combined this with a picnic and made it a family day. Over 150 badges were presented.

In term 4 several mobs combined for mob holidays. A Safari themed holiday was held at Kariong by the mobs from Parramatta district and a Pirate themed holiday was held at Bundilla by mobs from the Hills and Blacktown districts combined. These are enjoyable weekends and the parents involved are always very positive about the chance to interact with their own child at a fun level.

All in all we feel the aim was achieved and hope that mobs continue getting the Joey Scouts outdoors in 2010.

2009 was a year of growth for Greater Western Sydney Region Joeyes. We welcomed 1st Kellyville,

1st Erskine Park and 1st South Penrith Joey Scout mobs. This trend has continued, and at present new mobs are being started at 1st Blackheath, 1st North Mt Druitt and 1st Quakers Hill/Doonside. This reflects the needs of the community wanting children to have a supervised outdoor activity.

This year we have welcomed two new District Leaders – Jo Chamberlain for Penrith District and Valerie Lockman for Blacktown District. As each District continues to add Joey Scout mobs, having a District Joey Leader helps the new mobs and their leaders.

Unfortunately, we lost Sandy Knox as our District Leader in Parramatta. She has accepted the challenge of working in another section. We wish Sandy the best and thank her for all her efforts in making the Joey Scout section in Greater Western Sydney Region so positive.

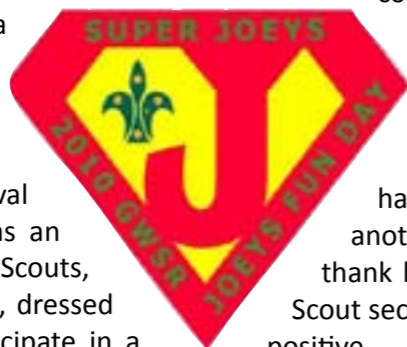
As our membership has grown, so has the number of Promise Challenge badges being completed by the older Joey Scouts. Twenty four Joey Scouts presented their projects on the fundamentals of scouting to their mobs in 2009. A big Hop Hop Hop to those youth members.

The Joey Scout leaders of the Region meet each month at Wandarrah and these meetings are an important forum for communication. Experienced leaders share their expertise with the new leaders and those still in training. There are now over sixty Joey Scout Leaders in the Region.

The effort made by these leaders to provide exciting programs and activities for our young youth members is appreciated. Thank you to all leaders.

HOP HOP HOP

Kathy Cuneo
Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)



Cub Scouts

The Cub Scout programme has again been full of diversity and fun. Districts have been busy with First Aid Days, Swimming Carnivals, Billy Cart Derbies, District Hikes, Pack Holidays; in addition most have been involved in special activities for Founders Day and Australia Day as well as local Anzac Day remembrances.

We again ran two Cub Scout Leadership Courses giving our young people a chance to develop leadership skills and share ideas with other cub scouts from the region.

This year we held our bi-annual Cub Day at the Jamborette, where the cubs are able to see and join in what the scout section has to offer them in the future.

The older cubs shared a great weekend at Bundilla, at "Cub Baanya", where they participated in a scout style camp and had the chance to try their hand at the varied activity bases on offer.

Congratulations to the following twenty-five Cub Scouts who have been awarded The Grey Wolf Award – Ryan Barton, James Williams, Callum Firth, Evan Lean, Timothy White, Reece Daper-Roberts, Jacob Middlemiss, Matthew Penfold, Brent Silvers, Caitlin Ellis, Daniel Anderson, Samuel Wheeler, Blake Kitson, Matthew Galea, David Nelson, Alexander Myers, Christine Davis, Liam Cuttance, Siobhan Toft, Fouad Al-Lakkis, Wajih El-Lakkis, Ahoon Imanakafshari, Samuel Black, Alyssa Plucke and Scott Green.

Our leaders also enjoyed a great weekend sharing ideas and resources at Palaver, where our theme "...it's not easy being green" gave us the opportunity to complete a training module on Environment for Cub Scouts as well as partaking in lots of other fun ideas to use with the pack.

This year saw us hold a Palanee with a "space" theme. This was another fun evening with lots of inspiring ideas for leaders to utilize with their cub scouts.

Following the success of our first programming workshop, we again held an evening to start the calendar year to inspire leaders to great ideas for their programmes. It was great to see new and experienced leaders sharing ideas and encouraging each other in a positive way.

This year one of our long term District Leaders – Val Walker went home. Val was a valued part of the Region Seonee for many years and we miss her input.

My thanks to the District Cub Scout Leaders (Lorraine Shaw, Melissa Clarke, Phyllis McAlpine, Gavan Hall, Anne Thompson, Charlene Bordley, Christine Casley) and



1st Erskine Park Cub Scouts see Jungle Book The Musical



Shirley Robinson for their support and hard work during the year. Thank you to our scribe (Betty Truscott), who has recently left us to move to the Central Coast, for many years of well kept minutes and support. We wish her well in her new home.

Special thanks to Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship for their support conducting the Map & Compass activity at Cub Baanya and for catering for our Palaver and Cub Scout Leadership courses and looking after us so well.

We look forward to another brilliant year as we look toward Cuboree in January and the many other diverse activities we have planned.

Patricia Shaw
Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts)



Cub Scouts enjoying activities at the Scout Jamborette 2009

Scouts

We had an interesting Jamboree in 2009. The biggest attraction was the helicopter landing in the next paddock to air lift an injured Scout to hospital with suspected spinal injury. Fortunately he was ok and was released from hospital. The theme was "GWS Survivor" and saw a number of Survivor type activities with a total of 24 activity bases. Weather was pleasant this year which was good. The numbers were up on last year which is typical in a Jamboree preparation year. The Troop for the best Theme Gateway was 1st Grose Vale who took out the Brian Welna Memorial trophy. The winning Traditional Gateway was 2nd Baulkham Hills. National Parks had done a good job of preparing the site for us with additional water taps in the lower camp sites so people did not have to go all the way up to the top to get water.

One of the things we did last year is copy everyone's A1 forms to have a copy at HQ while each Troop kept their original. This proved to be a good procedure to adopt as we at HQ were able to find the A1's for some of the accidents when we could not get hold of the leaders in the troops. In one incident with the First Aid team up in the canyon administering First Aid to the Scout, we were able to pull his A1 out and relay to them by radio any medical information listed on the form.

The Jamboree Award last year was a blue clear plastic cup with the Jamboree badge stenciled onto the side. There were a number of very positive comments on this being a good award this time. We did not tell them what the award was until they came to get the award when completing their activities.

The Region Scout Youth Council (SYC) is still operating with enthusiasm being shown by the Scouts. On top of this the District SYC's are endeavoring to commence as well with three Districts now having started their first meetings.

The biggest event in the Scout section calendar was the Australian Jamboree 2010 (AJ2010) held at Cataract Scout Park in southern Sydney. The theme for the Jamboree was "Test Your Limits". Things were certainly tested with a record number of Scouts from NSW attending. There were nearly 1,000 more than was originally expected. From our Region we had just over 530. We furnished 11 Troops all made up from Scouts and Leaders in our Region which is an increase

on previous Jamborees. The GWS Troops were all located in the same Sub Camp 6 "Leo" which meant it was easier for the Contingent Welfare Leaders to get around the Troops. There were no major mishaps and everyone seemed to enjoy the Jamboree in one way or another. On the way in, one Troop's bus did not arrive to pick them up so another one that had finished unloading was sent to collect them, then it rained on them when they arrived.

Since May last year we have had three Scouts achieve the Scout Medallion and seven Scouts achieve their Green Cords. Though our numbers are quite less, the quality of projects for the Medallion coming out of our Region have been quite exceptional. Some of the Scout Halls carry the mark of the work carried out by the Groups under the direction of the Scout organizing the project. The State Commissioner for Scouts is really impressed with our Scouts in what they are achieving. This past years Australian Scout Medallion recipients are:

Bowen Van der Voort	1st Springwood
Joshua Mercieca	1st Blaxland
Mitchell Hodgson	1st Ermington

Bravo to all.

Robin Garrett
Region Commissioner (Scouts)



2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Troop
Best Traditional Gateway
Jamboree 2009

Venturer Scouts

A Jamboree year always makes for a busy schedule and the past 12 months have been no different. Venturer Units across the Region have been increasingly active with more local activities being organised and greater attendance at Region events. Targeted promotion of the Try Venturing program has encouraged a large number of Scouts to explore opportunities for linking, and a growing number of award scheme badges have been completed.

Efforts to grow the Venturer Scout membership have featured prominently in the section program with strong attendance at the Scout Jamboree and a good range of quality activity bases being organised for the event. As well, the Venturing Out showcase provided great stimulus for launching our newest unit at 1st Ermington.

With 129 Venturers at Waratah, a two thirds increase in participants ensured a successful weekend was enjoyed by all. As well, for the first time, Waratah was opened up to Scouts aged 14 and over. This strategy provided an opportunity for those Scouts waiting for the Jamboree to still participate in the pinnacle Venturer event of the Region calendar and thus encourage them to link after the Jamboree. To the theme of "Castaways from Gilligan's Island", teams arrived during a tropical lightning storm (specially arranged of course) at our biggest and best Waratah yet!

Teams were required to assume the characters from the TV Classic "Gilligan's Island" and build a new life upon our deserted island. The teams then completed various activities including building their own Crystal Radios, Rock Rescues and Crossing Rivers of Hot Lava. Other activities included the Island Escape Boat Building contest, Tiki Idol, and our pre-Waratah challenge to recreate the TV theme song. The incredibly hot days also made our swimming hole and water slide activities very popular. After a very close battle, the Winners of Waratah 2009 were "The Lost Ones" from 1st Oakville.

National and International events have also been well attended this year. Ten Venturers completed service at the Australian Jamboree, providing integral support to the activities on offer to the Scouts. During the same time, a further ten Venturers attended the New Zealand Venture where all reports indicated an absolutely amazing experience.



Greater Western Sydney Region Leadership Course (August 2009)

Most recently, Dragon Skin has produced some excellent results with team "Thunderbirds" from 1st Kings Langley reaching into 5th place in the final rankings. Several inter-unit teams also featured in the competition this year, and the growing interaction between units is very encouraging.

Finally, the increased participation in the Venturer program has yielded some excellent benefits in award scheme progress. Throughout the year, the Region has achieved five new recipients of the Queen's Scout Award, some of whom also benefited from Bonus University Entrance Credits as a result of their achievements. I would like to congratulate Sean Emery (1st Westmead), Matthew Mills (1st Dural), Joseph Gleeson (1st Blaxland), Erica Barlow (1st Blaxland) and Lachlan Hill (1st Blaxland) on earning their awards and I wish them well in their Rovering careers.

The past year has seen a huge increase in activity within the section, and as membership continues to grow, I must thank and congratulate all of the leaders and supporters who have helped to guide our Venturers in each of these activities and with your support, I am certain of another exciting year ahead!

Aaron Wardle
Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts)

ROVERS

It has been another interesting year for Rovers in Greater Western Sydney.

There are 3 Crews in the Region who have shown excellent dedication at running Major Rover activities in the past year. Hawkesbury River Rover Crew ran the NSW Branch Moot ("Hilton Moot") which was an outstanding effort for this Crew. Blaxland Kalangadoo ran a fantastic "Rocky Horror Region Moot" and saw the largest turnout at a GWS Moot for some time, with over 200 Rovers attending. And North Mount Druitt Rover Crew coordinated our Region Roventure.

Other notable events included the Formal Maccas Dinner hosted by Kings Langley and Castle Hills' Gold Coin Dinner. Rovers were also active at the NSW Hike for Hunger and provided activities and security at the Region Scout Jamborette.

For Rovers who attended AJ2010 as Line Leaders, camp staff and also in Gang Show, well done for the hard work you all put into the Jamboree.



In February, sad news was received when Alexander Burke of 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Rover Crew was called to higher service. It is certain that Alex will be missed by Merrylands Rover Crew and all who knew him.

The Branch Rover Council developed the Drinksafe campaign to encourage greater responsibility with alcohol among our young adults. Posters were distributed to Crews throughout the year, and all Rovers were reminded of the vital role they play in promoting this initiative throughout the association.

Congratulations must go to Jenny Wardell on receiving the Stan Bales Award for Service to Rovers. Kings Langley Rover Crew was also recognised with the Quality Roving Award.



Efforts are continuing to strengthen the relationship with the Venturer Scout section. The Roventure remains a key feature in the annual calendar and is a vital opportunity to showcase what Roving has to offer. Rovers have also provided assistance to the Region Venturer Camp - Waratah and are preparing to help out again in 2010.

Lastly, Crews are placing a stronger emphasis on service and we look forward to having Rovers helping out at your local activities soon. Hopefully this increased exposure will work towards achieving a growth in membership in the next 12 months.

Yours in Roving,

Bennett Lansley
Rover, Kings Langley Rover Crew
Region Rover Council Chairman 2009 / 2010

Lauren Thorn
Rover, 1st Westmead Rover Crew
Region Rover Council Chairman 2010 / 2011

David Twist
Region Commissioner (Rovers)



AWARDS & DECORATIONS, 2009-2010



SILVER EMU – for Sustained and Exceptional Service

HOOK, Jeff ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Westmead Cub Scout Pack
MCALPINE, Phyllis ----- District Adviser, Hawkesbury District
TRAVERS, Keith ----- Region Commissioner (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region
VAN DEN BURG, Johan ----- Region Leader (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region



SILVER KOALA – for Distinguished Service

WOOD, Jeanette ----- Group Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Group

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – for Distinguished Service

ANDERSON, Harold ----- Group Chairman, 1st North Mount Druitt Scout Group
MCGRATH, Geoffrey ----- Hall Booking Officer, 1st Westmead Scout Group



SILVER WATTLE – for Outstanding Service

BISBY, Roger ----- Group Leader, 1st Oakville Scout Group
LEAHY, John ----- Region Leader (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region
PLUMMER, Leonie ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Joey Scout Mob



SILVER ARROWHEAD – for Excellent Service

BRODRICK, Kenneth ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Scout Troop
DOUGLASS, Annette ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Parramatta Cub Scout Pack
GALE, John ----- Rover Adviser (Resp), 2nd Baulkham Hills Rover Crew
GLEESON, Derek ----- Supporter, 1st Blaxland Scout Group
KIELY, Brian ----- Group Chairman, 1st Blackheath Scout Group
KIELY, Cheryl ----- Group Secretary, 1st Blackheath Scout Group
SCOTT, Heather ----- Supporter, 1st Blaxland Scout Group
SIMPSON, Douglass ----- Supporter, Greater Western Sydney Region
SOUL, Trevor ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Riverstone Cub Scout Pack
TUNICA, Nicolette ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Cub Scout Pack
WILSON, Gregory ----- Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Kings Langley Cub Scout Pack

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT – For Good Service

AVERY, Collette ----- Scout Leader, 1st Riverstone Scout Troop
GARDNER, John ----- Group Chairman, 2nd Kings Langley Scout Troop
HANSFORD, Tracey ----- Group Leader, 1st Ermington Scout Group
HANSON, Christopher ----- Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Scout Troop
HUGHES, Lisa ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Riverstone Cub Scout Pack
JOHNSTONE, Malcolm ----- Group Leader, 1st St Marys Cub Scout Pack
KNOX, Sandra ----- District Joey Scout Leader, Parramatta District
MAHNS, Katherine ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Springwood Cub Scout Pack
MAHONEY, Martin ----- Region Leader (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region
MCLEAN, Adam ----- Group Leader, 1st Blaxland Scout Group
RAY, Carol ----- Group Treasurer, 2nd Kings Langley Scout Group
ROBERTSON, Aldin ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st St Marys Cub Scout Pack
STEWART, Clinton ----- Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Scout Troop



AUSTRALIAN SCOUT MEDALLION

Bowen VAN DER VOORT ----- Scout, 1st Blaxland Scout Troop
Joshua MERCEICA ----- Scout, 1st Blaxland Scout Troop
Mitchell HODGSON ----- Scout, 1st Ermington Scout Troop



QUEENS' SCOUT AWARD

Sean EMERY ----- Venturer, 1st Westmead Venturer Unit
Matthew MILLS ----- Venturer, 1st Dural Venturer Unit
Joseph GLEESON ----- Venturer, 1st Blaxland Venturer Unit

DISTRICT REPORTS

Blacktown

My, how the district has grown in the last 12 months, with new leaders in all sections and youth members increasing all the time.

The district team has grown with Steve Wallace (District Leader Venturers) and Val Lockman (acting Joey Scout Leader). We lost David Robinson (District Leader Training) due to his work commitments. The district has a new District Delegate in Harry Anderson. Harry's years in Scouting are a great asset to the district.

Joeys

Our youngest section has been busy with starting up 2 new mobs. 1st North Mount Druitt and 1st Quakers Hill/Doonside. That makes 5 mobs in the district. Joeys have FUN, FUN, FUN and one of their special days is Joey Fun Day at Bundilla. Both Leaders and parents make sure that everything goes smoothly for an enjoyable day.

Cubs

The Cub Section has had a full program with group, district and region activities. The District Cub Scout Camp was held at Cataract with all 9 packs in attendance. The Blacktown City Festival is popular with all sections marching and the Cubs can always be heard with their singing. The Cub Fun Day went well at the Jamboree. The Billy Cart Derby attacks groups from other districts and is a great day. The District Hike started at Bondi and ended at Bronte, this is a great scenic walk. A number of leaders have been doing their Advanced Training, and both the Leaders and Cubs will benefit from this. Lorraine thanks all her leaders for their ongoing dedication to their Cub Packs.

Scouts

The Scout section of Blacktown District continued with another highly successful year.

The year kicked off with a "Leaders Only" Mindari Camp, held in the Southern Highlands. Early April saw the District off on a hiking trip from Wondabyne to Woy Woy, camping overnight at Camp Kariong. Blacktown District again supported the Scout Day at the Royal Easter Show, which went off with a bang. As always the Region Jamboree is well supported with every troop in the District in attendance. Only a few weeks later many of the Scouts attended our Scout Leadership Course at Camp Kariong, led by both Mark Fell and David Baggs.

Mid August saw the District off camping again at our District Camp, up at Camp Ku-ring-gai, and which was organized, and well run, by Mitchell Shaw from 1st Toongabbie.

Our first Shakedown Camp was held at Bundilla in late September, followed by a second camp mid November. This was all in preparation for AJ2010, where Blacktown District was able to send two complete troops, under the watchful guidance of our Troop Leaders Ross Howlett and Mark Fell. Having two Troops was certainly a great milestone for the District, and all leaders in attendance should be congratulated on their tireless effort and commitment.

Likewise, all the Scout Leaders in the District should be able to stand tall and proud with their achievements within the Scout Section.

Venturers

Venturers have continued to maintain a full and active program. Our Venturers are increasing with 2 new units in training: 1st/2nd Blacktown and 1st Riverstone. That will make 5 units in Blacktown District, after 2nd Kings Langley was placed into recess due to leader health.

Rovers

Rovers are an enthusiastic and very busy section of Scouting. Both Crews offer different activities and are increasing in numbers. They are involved in the Gang Show and some are really talented.

I am very proud of all sections in my district and thank all the Leaders for their time and effort. My district team are very supportive of me and their sections.

Thank you Mark and Lorraine with helping me put this report together.

Sandra Parker

District Commissioner

Blue Mountains

Blue Mountains District extends from Lapstone to Blackheath with Groups at Blaxland, Springwood, Hazelbrook and Blackheath. Efforts were made to reopen Leura with advertising in school newsletters, local libraries and newspaper, however, although enquiries were received for youth membership, no persons were prepared to take up a leadership role. In April an arson attack badly damaged Warrimoo hall which will now be demolished and the land returned to the Crown.

Over the last year our youth numbers have had an overall increase of 60 with leaders increasing by 2 – numbers now stand at 283 youth, 62 leaders and 17 Rovers. Most of the increase was at Blaxland and Blackheath – Blaxland is now the largest Group in the Region with two Joey Mobs (both with a waiting list), two Cub Packs and a second Scout Troop should commence shortly.

Fund Raising – Main focus for the year was raising funds for the Jamboree with one Group raising \$11,000. Fund raising events included BBQ's at Bunnings, K-Mart, sale of cricket cards, chocolate drives, movie nights, car wash etc. Grants/donations were received from various service clubs/organisations, Councils and Community programs.

Joeys - Springwood Mob went into recess as the leader was unable to continue, at the time of this report a person has come forward to train and hopefully the Mob can restart. Blackheath Mob is due to open shortly.

Activities undertaken by the other Mobs have included; completing Buddy Badge with a nearby Mob, Environment and Care & Share Badges, short walks, visit to Fire Station and learning about the stars/planets. Three Promise Challenge badges were awarded.

Cubs – All Cub Packs were active during the year, participating in activities such as local festivals, Anzac Day, visits to climbing centre, Werrington Observatory, twilight bushwalks, visit to Garden Island/HMAS Newcastle. Blaxland held a very successful Pack Holiday at Camp Windeyer.

Many Boomerangs and Special Interest badges were earned and Grey Wolf achieved at Hazelbrook Group.

Scouts – The Jamboree was the main event with youth members from all Groups participating – from all reports a good time was had by all attending. Scouts attended District, Region and State activities as well as individual Group activities. Under the Mindari the Scouts in the District have held a very successful 7 day camp at Nord's Wharf, District camp/rally at Cattai and Blue Mountains Scout Leadership Course. (Springwood Scouts spent 949 nights camping, 1,538kms hiking and 420kms canoeing).

Scouts in all Groups have been working on all levels of the Badge/Award scheme with 2 Scout Medallions achieved, 7 Green Cords, 10 Blue Cords and many Red

Cords along with various badges.

Venturers – The three Units in the District were active at all levels. Apart from individual activities which included trips to Stockton Beach, Kanimbla Valley, Newnes and Wallgangby, climbing and caving, they participated in Dragon Skin, Waratah, Rat Skin, and Roventure and assisted at Region Jamboree. At Blaxland 3 Venturers achieved their Queen's Scout Award with another in the pipeline.

Finally, to the Leaders and parents who supported the Groups during the year, my thanks for your ongoing commitment to our youth and the Scout Association.

Paul Roach

District Commissioner



1st Hazelbrook Venturer Daniel Squires abseiling into Blowfly Cave at Bungonia (Photo courtesy Carey Barlow)

Hawkesbury

Although our district is small in groups it is large in area stretching from Bilpin to Maraylya Londonderry to Colo we have on our doorstep many opportunities to put the out in scout.

Through the year we have many opportunities to come together for joint activities including the popular billy cart derby for all from Joeys through to Rovers and including the leaders and parents. We have a great position on a property (after the cows are moved).

We also celebrate St Georges Day organised each year by a different section 2010 being the Cub Scout's turn.

Another highlight is our display at the Hawkesbury show where we have come away with a ribbon for the past few years. Each group has a time slot to man the display.

BP's birthday is always remembered in our district with this year's celebration taking the form of an activity day at McQuade Park in Windsor. We were privileged to have our mayor and local members join us on the day. We also had the local reporter and they had a good write up in the papers.

Joeys are steadily building their numbers.

The Cub Scout section took part in the out and about day visiting Sydney starting with the Botanical Gardens, Opera House and Circular Quay before heading home. The district camp was well attended. Several Cub Scouts attended the Leadership course. We also presented several Grey Wolf awards.

Last year, the district Scouts ran one of the first Scout Leadership Courses in the state. It was attended by the Assistant Branch Commissioner who judged it to be a success.

We had nearly 100% attendance at the Region Jamboree in June.

Patrols from all groups attended the State Rally at Cataract Scout Park in August and district leaders assisted in catering for the team on the GWSR activity RAC as well as operating one of the activity bases.

The big focus of the year was undoubtedly the Australian Scout Jamboree at Cataract Scout Park in Appin. 38 youth members from the district along with 8 leaders attended and had a rewarding experience. They also hosted Cubs and their families in the camp on Future Scout Day.

This year promises to be bigger with most of the groups growing in numbers.

Some of the youth members have shown an interest in attending the New Zealand Jamboree which is to be held in Hamilton from 29th December 2010 to 7th January 2011. Some other Scouts have shown interest in attending the 4th New South Wales Cuboree at Appin in January 2011 as Junior Service Leaders. I'm sure their experience and enthusiasm will be an asset to the event.

The Venturers had several teams take part in Dragon Skin and were happy with their places.

The Rovers have met regularly and taken part in district activities when they could.

Black Horse Scout Fellowship have continued to enjoy

their time together building on the friendship they experienced when they were line leaders.

Even though we are still looking for a D.C. this has not stopped us working as a team for the benefit of the youth in our area.

Mary Garrett
District Commissioner (Acting)

Hills South

Over the past twelve months Scouting has progressed well in the Hills South District. Numbers in most groups have been steady with consistent numbers in all sections. A couple of groups have had increases in numbers with the biggest growth at Kellyville.

Kellyville has opened up a Joey mob in the last year with good consistent numbers and a couple of parents becoming Leaders. The other Joey mobs continue to do well.

The Cub section has continued well with most groups enjoying good numbers and some new Leaders coming on board. They have been a few Grey Wolf awards handed out as well.

Scouts have worked hard over the past 12 months preparing for AJ2010 at Cataract with a strong contingent from the District, with close to 100 members attending including Leaders.

Venturer numbers are a bit low but they seem to be starting to increase. We also had 1 Queen's Scout award from Dural presented during the year.

The last 12 months have seen 4 Leaders receive their Wood Badge and a few more Leaders are currently working on achieving this goal.

Overall the youth members have experienced and participated in a wide range of activities over the past year including: Joey Fun Day, District Cub Camps, District Scout Camps, Jamboree, AJ2010, Anzac Parades in Castle Hill & Galston & Sydney.

In the next 12 months we are looking at establishing a new Venturer Unit and re-establishing Cubs at 4th Castle Hill.

Gavan Hall
District Commissioner

Holroyd

The Jamboree is over for another 3 years, to all those youth members and leaders that participated I hope that it was all that you wanted and that a good time was had by all.

To the youth members, make sure that you tell all those younger members and your mates what a great time you had. To the leaders, make certain that you continue to spread the word, don't wait until 6 months before to promote this great event.

During the past year the Scouts of Holroyd have participated in the Holroyd Festival Parade, we also had an information stall in the main street on the day. A great big thank you to Anne Thompson for doing the hard yards there all day.

The District was represented in flag raising duties at the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremonies and we again had a display at the Australia Day festivities at Merrylands Oval. This year we also had the climbing wall on the top oval which was a great success. Many thanks to those leaders and youth members who assisted on the day.

To the youth members of this District, keep up the good work it, was great to be able to spend time camping with you at the Jamboree.

Congratulations to all the Leaders of this District for the continuing good work that you have all put in to maintain the level of Scouting being achieved in this District. I hope that you are getting back the satisfaction of seeing your young people going ahead in self achievement.

Ron Brown
District Commissioner

Parramatta

Most Groups attended and assisted at "Venturing Out" in July 2009. The Region AGM was held at the event and was visited by Maxine McKew, Federal Member for Bennalong and several local councilors. The outcome of the event was successful with a number of non scouting youth experiencing Scout Activities and the profile of Scouting raised in the Community.

The district swimming carnival was conducted at Parramatta pool in February 2010 and was well attended by Joeys, Cubs and Scouts with Venturers providing vital assistance. A Founders Day ceremony preceded the carnival and was well received by uniformed members and parents.

The Scout Section attended the GWSR Jamboree on the Queen's Birthday long weekend and whilst there was some rain it was nothing like the previous year.

The District has started a new Venturer Unit at Ermington bringing the total number of units to 4.

Winston Hills Group celebrated their 40th Anniversary on 2nd May 2010.

Groups again participated in the Anzac Day Services at various locations around the district.

Kings Langley Rovers continue to have a great relationship with Parramatta District.

Parramatta District was well represented at AJ2010 with 2 troops which were made up from Scouts and Leaders from 7 of the 8 district troops. Troops from the district also sponsored several Scouts from Vanuatu who joined into our district troops. 24 leaders from Parramatta participated in full time Line or Service Leader roles and several helped out as Day Workers. This enabled the youth to get the best experience from the Jamboree.

Parramatta District has experienced a solid growth of 7% (31 members) in the 2009-2010 year which is a pleasing result and reflects the great efforts of our volunteers to further Scouting. There are a number of new leaders who have commenced their training for various groups in our district. A special thank you to all the leaders and committees for the amount of hard work they put in to a fabulous year of quality scouting and growth in the district.

The aim for 2010/2011 is to fill the position of DJSL, DSL, DVSL and DC on the district team to be able to better support the leaders and youth members of Parramatta District.

Tracey Hansford
District Commissioner (Acting)

Penrith

Having only been in the DC chair for a relatively short time frame I am unable to speak in any great detail about what has occurred within Penrith District over the past 12 months.

However I have been a member of the district as an Assistant Group Leader and have observed a few points over the past year in a slightly different capacity.

Several groups from Penrith area have participated in major events such as JOTA, Jamboree, Australia day & ANZAC day activities. Currently preparations are in place for upcoming events such as JOTT, Jamborette, JOTA 2010 and of course CUBoree.

One of the groups within the district seems to be going from strength to strength with the remainder seemingly losing a few members here and there.

There has been an increase in Joey Mobs over the past 12 months. Unfortunately this hasn't directly added to the number of Joeyes in the area, but seems to have spread the membership over a greater number of groups. However in the long term, this can only prove beneficial to Scouting particularly the Joey Scout section.

Aaron Wardle (RC – Venturers) visited one of our District Council meetings to put forward a proposal to the Group Leaders on how we can work to grow the Venturer numbers in the area. Similarly, the focus at the next few District Councils will be to put our heads together and see what we can do as a District to attract new membership. We have also had visits from other RC's such as Neville Henderson, Ann Pounder & Patricia Shaw.

On a positive note, it looks as though a Penrith District Representative may have been recruited for the Region Executive. All being well we will soon have someone attending these meetings and being the voice for Penrith.

The District Leader Roles have pretty much been filled, with a DLT being the only vacancy at present. Hopefully suitable candidates will soon be canvassed and this role too can be filled.

I am looking forward to an exciting & productive first year as DC and I am sure the all the Leaders in the district will rally together and help get the numbers back up in our area.

Rodney Lean
District Commissioner

ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

It only seems like yesterday that I was doing the 2009 Report

I would like to begin this report with thanking my team for their support through out 2009. Terry Darragh acted in my roll when I needed to take some leave and Aafke Futchter–Hall took over the Introductory Interviews at very short notice.

Thank you so much.

To others through out the Region who supported the training team last year my heart felt thanks for the wonderful people you are . We really are very blessed in our Region with the people we have.

Introductory interviews continue to have a large number of new leaders attending.

The support from the Group varies on these nights

Those leaders who have the group attend appear to finish their training quicker so it is so important that all Groups get involved in knowing where their new leaders are at and not rely on Training Team and the PLA. Interaction between all is very important and I hope those Groups who are struggling maybe take on board that it is a team effort and work together.

Paper work and Final Interview Nights

These nights are proving invaluable for all leaders including the leader completing their training. We are finding a small percentage of leaders have difficulty attending Thursday night so they have made alternate arrangements.

Course within the Region

Our flexible training has continued in the Region and has been appreciated by those who are single parents, uni students and shift workers. Others have appreciated they can still have time with the family by having only one day of a weekend taken up and found it easier to manage the 2 one days we have provided.

An Advanced Leadership 1 Course was also run on this basis in February 2010.

Thanks for this goes to Adam McLean (the leader behind the scenes organising to ensure the numbers were on the course as well as the catering and bits needed in Blaxland Hall) and to Jeff Hook who agreed to run the Course and organize the presenters and the 2 Saturdays.

As a result of this we are now looking at running a multi section AL2 followed by a multi section AL3. We are still in the planning stage but hope to achieve this in the later part of 2010.

TT1 Course

This was organised and run with mainly members of the activity team present in February 2010.

This proved a very successful course and others have asked when are running another one following the feedback by those who attended.

A big thanks goes to the people who catered for these courses and to the co-ordinator Adam McLean.

PLA

Aafke has taken on board the need to refine our PLA system in GWS and this is now an on going task to make it work more effectively. Regular meetings are now in place to help identify the team and to discuss elements of their role.

Courses for Venturers, Rovers and youth helpers have also been held either at Bundilla or other Scout halls in our Region. Thankyou to all those who were proactive in ensuring the courses ran and presented good scouting.

Courses at Training centres

A number of leaders have assisted on courses from PLA's, Assessors, ALT's and LT'S. Thankyou for your time and expertise.

(I was going to name but I did not want to offend anyone if I omitted them.)

Wood Badge Awards

Bravo to the following leaders who have achieved their wood badge in the past 12 months.

For some of these leaders it is their second or third wood badge. Well Done!

A special thankyou to Jan Carter who processed and assisted us on so many occasions. May your retirement be relaxing and enjoyable.

Ann Pounder
Region Commissioner
(Adult Training & Development)



GWSR Wood Badge Recipients for 2009-2010

Joey Section
Joanne Chamberlain

Cub Section
Melissa Clarke
Guy Fitzsimmons

Scout Section
Linda Coffill
Mary Garrett
Brett Graham
Christopher Hanson
Elizabeth Hayes
Christopher Henry
Terri Herry
Clinton Stewart
Meridith Stewart

Venturer Section
Margo Dalziel
Terrence Darragh
Adam Wheat
Kevin Wytthe

Group Leader
Rodney Lean
Adam McLean

Leader of Adults
John Mark Fell
Anne Thompson

INTERNATIONAL

The International Team mounted displays at the following activities:

- 17th Gippsland Corroboree
- Region Jamborette, Bents Basin
- Venturing Out & Region AGM, Ermington
- Branch AGM, Newington Armoury
- 22nd Australian Jamboree, Cataract
- Glenbrook Historical Society

Out attendance in International activities saw 14 of our members participate as follows:

- 67th National Rover Moot, New Zealand
 - 1st Blaxland (Kalangadoo) Rover Crew
 - Warren Kaltenbacher
 - Rebecca Cini
 - Melanie Ifon
- 23rd Asia Pacific Scout Conference, Malaysia
 - Region Commissioner International
 - Peter Nickl
- 11th National Venture, New Zealand
 - 2nd Baulkham Hills
 - Robert Slater
 - 1st Hazelbrook
 - Harrison Backers
 - Sally Gorman
 - Myles Harris-Ayling
 - Scott Roberston
 - Thomas Shaddock
 - Nelson Sinton
 - Caitlin Trindall
 - Hannah Woodrow-Clark
 - 1st Oakville
 - Elizabeth Evans

In addition to the above, I also participated in Scouting activities during my visits to England, Canada and United States of America following my time in Malaysia.

At the Chief Commissioners Conference in September 2009, we had the opportunity to hear about International Scouting experiences from the following

- 67th National Rover Moot, New Zealand
- 1st Blaxland (Kalangadoo) Rover Crew

- Bharat Scouts & Guides, India
 - District Commissioners from Shimoga, Karnataka, India (Mr & Mrs Chandrashakar who were staying in Granville for 3 months)

During the year we had enquiries from Scouts within our Region wanting to participate in Scouting activities in New Zealand, Japan and the United States of America.

We also had groups involved with International Scouting as follows:

- 1st Mount Druitt interacting with 2 Polish Scout Groups via the Internet
- 1st Ermington Scout Leader from Germany
- GWSR Scouting families assisted with hosting Japanese Scouts from Yokohama District.

Had Leaders from Canada, England, New Zealand & United States of America visit during the past year.

Aaron Wardle, Region Commissioner Venturers has been appointed Australian Contingent Leader for the United States of America Centenary Jamboree celebrating 100 years of American Scouting.

A very successful Leader Training course was run at Bundilla prior to AJ2010 for the Leaders from Vanuatu.

Finally, we assisted in dispatching two large consignments of Scouting equipment, uniforms, paperwork & books to Vanuatu during 2009/10. Scouts Australia New South Wales Branch is responsible for Scouting in Vanuatu.

I doubt without the continued support, assistance, commitment and encouragement from members of our team we would accomplish the foregoing.

In closing, on behalf of the International Team, I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Jan Carter and Jan Playford for the support and assistance given to us in achieving what we have in our Region on behalf of the International Scouting & look forward to this continuing with our new office support team and Neville Henderson.

Peter Nickl
Region Commissioner (International)



ACTIVITIES

Many thanks to the Leaders, Rovers and Venturers who helped on our courses and trips.

This year saw the introduction of the climbing wall, purchased from donations by 2 benefactors. 2 climbing walls reside at Cataract Scout Park, and 1 resides at Pennant Hills. The use of these walls is controlled by Branch Office.

We supplied 6 boats from our sailing fleet to the Jamboree and John Van Den Burg supplied his 27' pacific sailing boat for use at the Jamboree. Approximately 2,500 youth members had a taste of sailing on Sydney harbour. We hope this will generate more people for our sailing courses.

We have run canyon trips, rock related Scout courses, caving trips and courses, first aid courses, radio and science nights at Cub and Scout level. See separate reports from each team.

We have attended district training meeting at Stanwell Tops, Activity Conference at Pennant Hills, training conference at Pennant Hills, ORIC conference at State Sports Stadium.

We conducted canoe courses during the year for approx 150 - slightly up on previous years. This money enabled us to purchase 4 canoes from the Jamboree.

We ran 1 sailing course this year.

We organised Family Fun Day on the water with about 150 paying customers and about 400 parents etc.

We had damage to all our sailing boats at the Jamboree, but we have nearly completed repairs.

Finally, there is a new Branch Commissioner for Activities. His name is Warren Goodall and he will be helping to enhance activity participation within NSW with several policy changes due out in the year ahead.

Keith Travers
Region Commissioner (Activities)

Bushwalking

A total of 48 certificates were issued this year with the details shown in the accompanying table. For youth members, only Scouts and Venturers are able to be issued with certificates under the bushwalking policy. Most certificates issued to Scouts are for their green cord hikes. Venturer bushwalks are generally to achieve the expedition badges.

The total number of certificates issued has increased this year, hopefully representing an increase in outdoor activity. There are still a number of groups with leaders or youth members not holding any current qualifications. Presumably they rely on other groups for leadership or simply miss out on the bushwalking side of Scouting.

As far as I am aware, all the bushwalks undertaken by GWS groups ended in a safe and satisfactory manner. Unfortunately, this was not the case with rescues required by non GWS Scout outings within our Region.

Most bushwalking groups now go equipped with an EPIRB or PLB. They are readily available from a number of organisations free of charge or for a nominal fee. Hopefully this trend will continue and all our bushwalking parties will be so equipped in the future.

It would be nice to see more bushwalking during the coming 12 months. Walks can be undertaken just for enjoyment and experience, rather than badge driven. Youth members invariably find that a few days in the bush can be fun. It is a cheap, safe and easily accessible activity that can do wonders for confidence and esteem.

Details of certificates are:

Appointment	Preliminary Bushwalking Leader	Bushwalking Leader	Bushwalking Instructor	Bushwalking Examiner
Scouts	10	11		
Venturers		5		
Rovers		1		
Adults		20		1
Total	10	37		1

Frank Barr
Region Bushwalking Activities Coordinator

Cumberland Gang Show

2009 was the 40th Anniversary of Cumberland Gang Show and many special activities were conducted by the Scout Fellowship including an Anniversary Luncheon at Blacktown RSL on the middle Sunday of the July school holidays. Thanks to the hard workers who made this day possible.

During the 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 have in fact increased. We would have thought that the 40th Anniversary would have improved the scouting participation in the audiences.

Aside from the above, another great year for Cumberland Gang Show (our 40th season) with 10 spectacular performances at Parramatta Riverside Theatres. Close to 7,000 people saw the cast sing and dance their way through the special 40 year show. Many people commented that it was the "best show yet".

The show featured a small number of new items written by our talented gang members and probably the highlight of the season was the Swan Lake Ballet performed by the senior male cast members. Special souvenirs were available along with a book and DVD produced to celebrate 40 years. The program had many old numbers which have been popular with audiences over the past 40 years.

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 2010 has started with a "bang" with the first rehearsal in March held at Castle Hill High School. The day was run as a performing arts workshop/fun day with a performance for the parents during the evening. This gave the parents a look at what to expect at showtime.

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.

Congratulations to orchestra member and rehearsal pianist Doug Simpson who was recognised in the 2009 World Scout Day Awards. Well done Doug.

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.

Yours in Scouting

Cumberland Gang Show Management Board



Brendan Richards with his family after being announced Rodney Award winner for 2009.



First Aid

During the past year, Preliminary First Aid, Advanced Life Support and Remote Area First Aid courses have been conducted for youth and adult members of GWSR. First Aid and Medical support have been provided for Dragon Skin, GWSR Jamborette and the water activities Fun Day.

From 2010, the St John Ambulance Remote Area First Aid Course has been restructured back to a two day course, however there is a prerequisite requirement of having a current Senior First Aid or higher qualification certificate.

Contact Allan Mason on 0401 324 058 or 02 8850 0141 if you require a first aid course organised for your Group or District.

Dr Josette Docherty and Allan Mason
Region First Aid Team

Radio, Science & Technology

This last year we saw over 1,000 youth members just on week night activities, an increase over last year of about 200, and we are still nowhere near meeting the demand for our science programs, even within the GWS Region. The 'Hover' night has proved to be very popular, and riding the hover disk a highlight of the night. We have another 10 program nights in development but lack the leaders or available nights to deliver them.

Our Base at Bents Basin Jamborette in June featured a programmable wheeled robot that the Scouts could program simply by dragging and dropping Basic instructions. They were shown how to turn the wheels forward or reverse, sense a switch or look for light or dark, and then they devised a program to make the robot follow a black line on the floor. Another activity had the Scouts lifting their finger prints off paper with magnetic fingerprint powder, then viewing it under a microscope to locate whirls, loops and arches. A third activity gave the Scouts a chance to be creative, recreating friends and villains on an Identikit program on a laptop.

Karl earned his advanced radio call licence during the year. Karl has developed a night on 'Radio Operation for Scouts' including radio technique,



EPIRB use and GPS, which we will deliver before the next JOTA. Central to the night will be a wired intercom setup where the Scouts will practice correct call and response protocol, asking and answering open questions, and understanding reception under distorted conditions. He will also explain the operation of an EPIRB using a donated training unit.

Jody Richards has attended some section activities meetings and has been very helpful. Her other activities in scouting and her Uni course limit the number of nights she can assist us.

We are fully booked till the end of this year, and a waiting list for 2011 is developing rapidly. It is difficult to see how we can increase our exposure, or even maintain our present program without extra team members who could attend most nights. It seems unreasonable to expect Andy or other section Leaders Mick and Jody who also run a section night once a week, to attend every night. That just leaves Karl and me, and his work is requiring more frequent country trips.

Thanks to Andy Walker, Karl Humphries, Mick Arnsby and Jody Richards for their enthusiasm in expounding the science of nature to our youth, to Section Leaders who arranged for us to visit two sections on the same night, and to the Leaders and Amateur Radio operators supporting JOTA in the GWS Region.

John Leahy
Radio, Science & Technology Activity Leader

Rock-Related

Rock Activities in the Region have enjoyed another very satisfactory year.

Our attendance at the Scout Jamborette last year was again most successful – this is a great opportunity to interest large numbers of Scouts in rock activities.

Abseil courses have not been well attended, but Scout Proficiency Badge courses are very popular – both the ones on the Rock program and the special courses that individual troops request. Scout Proficiency Badge courses cover both Abseiling and Top-Rope Climbing.

In addition, the caving group has recently started to offer Scout Caving Proficiency Badge courses. The first one of these (this year) has been a great success.

Canyon trips for beginners again proved to be popular. These trips do not involve abseiling, and so are suitable for the Scout section.

So our overall emphasis has become more oriented towards courses for Scouts – stimulated by the Proficiency Badge system. This compares to previous years where our main function was to provide qualification courses in Abseiling, Canyoning and Caving that were mainly aimed at Venturers and Rovers. Note that the latter are still vitally important, since this is where our new Leaders and Instructors come from.

The gear situation continues to be satisfactory, with a (hopefully) imminent purchase of gear being greatly anticipated.

Our excellent and capable group of Abseil Instructors has again increased in numbers this year. Also the situation for Canyoning and Caving instructors has improved steadily. However I must point out that the registration system for Leaders and Instructors is almost impossibly inefficient. Qualifications for (say) a Canyoning Instructor involve expiry dates for the Abseil Instructor, Canyoning Instructor, and First Aid qualifications. I cannot access a computer list of such qualifications without requesting it for a single individual – and this takes time to get the results. If I (or other people) could access a computer list of qualified people and their expiry dates then it would make my job about 1000 times easier. The computer software to perform such a function is trivial. I can only assume that the “powers that be” don’t want us to have such information. Why this is so remains one of the great mysteries.

It is gratifying that the general level of expertise in Rock activities continues to improve to a significant extent. I think the increasing involvement in rock activities by members of the Scout section has contributed to this.

I would also like to express my thanks to the new girls at the Bundilla office who are doing a great job in organising our courses. Also, heartfelt thanks to Jan Carter who helped us over many years.

Rick Jamieson
Region Rock-Related Activities Coordinator

SCOUT FELLOWSHIPS

Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship

Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship has continued to consolidate during the past twelve months with membership around 20. While most members are involved in the cast and crew of Cumberland Gang Show, we continually seek to expand our membership base. The past year saw much activity and excitement as our members experienced a special year of celebration.

The Fellowship’s major activity was celebrating the 40th year of Cumberland Gang Show. The Fellowship organised a special celebratory luncheon held at Blacktown RSL on Sunday 19th July. More than two hundred people attended to celebrate and reminisce. Many were reluctant to leave when the luncheon concluded. We sold over two hundred special 40th anniversary hoodies emblazoned with the 40th anniversary logo, over one hundred red wool touch fashion scarves with the 40th anniversary logo, 40th anniversary badges and a commemorative port and port glasses. A highlight was the publication of the 40 year history of Cumberland Gang Show in booklet form and a pictorial history of Cumberland Gang Show on DVD. The enthusiasm drive and organisational skills of our members was most apparent.

Our social program included a most enjoyable visit to the Careflight facilities in May, a show recovery dinner in July, attendance at the Holroyd Musical Society’s performance of Cats in September, an enjoyable, yet frustrating, tour of the Camden wineries in October, Christmas Dinner in November, our annual planning day picnic held at Parramatta Park in January and a twilight walk through Wentworth Common followed by a picnic dinner in March.

Many of our members are also active in other scouting appointments. We now have four members on the Executive of the Branch Scout Fellowship Committee. Some members provided support to the Jamboree and to Dragon Skin. Holroyd District members participated in the Holroyd Australia Day Celebrations, flag raising and Holroyd Festival parade.

The year saw several of our members recognised in the 2009 World Scout Day Awards. June Harrison, Alex Van Rooy and Jeanie Wood were recipients whilst June Harrison was also awarded an OAM in the Australia Day Honours List. Jenny Wardell recently received the Stan Bales Award for service to Rovers.

My special thanks to my fellow members of the executive: Vice Chairman Steve, Secretary Jeanie, and Treasurer Sharon. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and have certainly ensured the great success of the past twelve months. I would also like to thank the many members who contributed to the special anniversary projects we undertook. I believe our Fellowship will continue to enjoy another exciting year in 2010-2011.

Lyll Wood
Chairperson
Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship

Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship



2009 has been another busy year for Pinnaroo, with service activities and some time for fun.

Our service to Scouting includes cooking for a Cub Scout Leadership Course and for Palaver. Our skills were used where we ran a map and compass base at Cub Baanya – where we were presented with a “Commissioner’s Thanks Certificate” in recognition of our continued service at Cub Scout events. Thanks to Margaret Cheah who has been attending 1st Westmead Pack regularly to offer her service.

Members have also cooked for Vanuatu Leaders completing a training course, prior to the Jamboree; helped out at an outing for special scouts at Symbio Park at Helensburg; assisted at Agoonorette and GWS Jamborette - working on the International base and working bees at 1st Westmead. Pinnaroo could also be found at the inaugural investitures for Blue Mountains and Lones Fellowships; the opening

of the Scout Heritage Museum at Newington and Ermington’s Venturing Out.

As part of the 1st Westmead family we attended Eliza McGrath’s (Venturer Leader) B.P. Award presentation; Sean Emery’s Queen Scout Presentation, Brendan Emery’s Scout Medallion presentation and the group AGM.

Service has also been given to events outside scouting, with members helping out at Clean Up Australia and National Tree Day.

To end the year we made gifts for the residents of Southern Cross Hostel, and then went along to sing Christmas Carols and entertain them, before distributing the gifts. Thank you to the Venturers who joined us on this evening.

Our social activities included a marvellous weekend inspecting the Cadia Gold Mine, near Bathurst. A deluxe weekend was had at Kiama with plenty of fish and chips. We also had our annual pilgrimage to the Clarkson’s holiday home at North Avoca, another great weekend. “Out and About” month saw us catch the train to Kiama for some window shopping and lunch, then back on the train to Thirroul for afternoon tea, before catching the train home.

This year we made a donation to the Victorian C.F.A. following the horrific fires in that state. Throughout August we collected groceries to be donated to Ronald McDonald House at Westmead.

During the year we farewelled one of our founding members, Val Walker, with a large number of us attending her funeral and afterwards serving afternoon tea to all those who attended.

Congratulations to Jeff Hook on his award of the Silver Emu, in the World Scout Day Awards.

Thank you to my fellow office bearers and all those who have helped make the year so successful.

Stephen Shaw
Chairperson
Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship

SCOUTING ON THE INTERNET

Greater Western Sydney Region

www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

Related Scouting websites...

GWSR Joeys

www.gwsjoeys.org.au

GWSR Rovers

www.gwsrovers.com.au

Cumberland Gang Show

www.gangshow.asn.au

Scouts Australia - NSW

www.nsw.scouts.com.au

NSW Rovers

www.nswrovers.com.au

Scouts Australia

www.scouts.com.au

Rovers Australia

www.rovers.com.au



WEBMASTER

The Region website continues to be a useful tool for leaders and youth members in our Region. It is currently attracting over 2,000 visits and over 10,000 pages viewed each month.

The popular features of the website include the Region calendar, downloadable resources and news articles. Keeping this website updated is a huge task and I am looking for anyone that is interested in helping to update existing content and add new content. Please let me know if you are interested.

Considerable time has gone into setting up email distribution lists for the Region Council, Region Executive and the Venturer section. These lists have better enabled communication to flow easier throughout the Region. I hope you have benefited from these lists this year.

I am constantly working to make it easier to find the information you are looking for. The news sections have been streamlined and a complete summary of the latest articles across all sections are available on the front page. If you have any suggestions for further improvements, please contact me.

Matt Thompson
Region Webmaster

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www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

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

Parramatta District

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

Penrith City District

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

Scout Fellowships

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



THE SCOUT PRAYER

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

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



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