



Scouts Australia - NSW

Greater Western Sydney Region

65th Annual Report

2012



SCOUTS
AUSTRALIA

Be Prepared...
for new adventure!

www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

Greater Western Sydney Region Team 2011-2012

REGION PRESIDENT ----- Alan Overton AM
REGION CHAIRMAN ----- Geoff McGrath
REGION TREASURER ----- Vacant
REGION COMMISSIONER ----- Neville Henderson
REGION OFFICE STAFF ----- Maggi Roynon / Kim Harris

Region Commissioners

JOEY SCOUTS ----- Kathy Cuneo
CUB SCOUTS ----- Anne Thompson
SCOUTS ----- Robin Garrett
VENTURER SCOUTS ----- Aaron Wardle
ROVERS ----- David Twist
ACTIVITIES ----- Mark Fell
ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT ----- Ann Pounder /
Carol Cope (Acting)
COMMUNICATIONS & PR ----- Matt Thompson
INTERNATIONAL ----- Peter Nickl

District Commissioners

BLACKTOWN ----- Sandra Parker /
David Stopps (Acting)
BLUE MOUNTAINS ----- Paul Roach
HAWKESBURY ----- Duncan Watts (Acting)
HILLS SOUTH ----- Gavan Hall
HOLROYD ----- Ron Brown
PARRAMATTA ----- Tracey Hansford
PENRITH CITY ----- Andrew McLean (Acting)

Region Patrons

Julie Owens MP
Federal member for Parramatta

Ray Williams MP
State member for Hawkesbury

CONTENTS

Minutes from 2011 AGM 4
Region Commissioner 6
Region Chairman 7
Region Financial Report 8
Bundilla Scout Camp 9
Region Office 9
Section Reports 10
 Joey Scouts 10
 Cub Scouts 11
 Scouts 13
 Venturer Scouts 13
 Rovers / Sherwood Moot..... 16
2011 Adult Recognition Awards 17
District Reports 19
 Blacktown 19
 Blue Mountains..... 19
 Hawkesbury 20
 Hills South 21
 Holroyd 21
 Parramatta 21
 Penrith 23
Adult Training & Development Report 24
International Report 25
Activities Report 26
 Bushwalking 28
 Cumberland Gang Show 28
 Rock Related 29
 Radio, Science & Technology 30
Scout Fellowships Reports 31
 Black Horse Scout Fellowship 31
 Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship..... 31
 Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship . 31
 Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship..... 32
List of Scout Groups & Rovers Crews..... 33



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 BRANCH
GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION

Minutes of the 64th Annual General Meeting of the Region Scout Council held at
Bundilla Scout Camp on Sunday 26th June 2011, commencing at 2.30pm.

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

APOLOGIES: As per attendance book.

WELCOME: Mr Alan Overton welcomed all those present.

PRESENTATION: by Chief Commissioner, Mr Doug Menzies to Joshua Mercieca for bravery and courage.

1.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 2010 63rd Annual General Meeting of the Region Council held Sunday 20th June 2010 were circulated in the Annual Report and adopted.

MOVED: Mr Geoff McGrath SECONDED: Mrs Lorraine Joiner
2.

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mr Neville Henderson, Region Commissioner

To move the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statement

Mr Mark Fell

Region Commissioner (Activities)

To second the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statement

Mrs Kathy Cuneo

Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)

ADDRESS BY The Honourable Ms Julie Owens MP, Federal Member for Parramatta

ADDRESS BY Mr Ray Williams, State Member for Hawkesbury

ADDRESS BY Mr David Elliot, State Member for Baulkham Hills
3.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

REGION PRESIDENT	Mr Alan Overton AM	TRUSTEES	Region Commissioner
REGION CHAIRMAN	Mr Geoff McGrath		Mr Geoff McGrath
REGION TREASURER	Vacant		Mrs Jan Playford
REGION MINUTES SECRETARY	Mrs Pamela Garske		Mr Peter Nickl

4.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS – REGION COUNCIL

Mr Geoff McGrath	Mr L Wood AM RFD	Mrs Jan Playford	Mr Harry Anderson
Mr Peter Stieme	Mr Michael Majoor	Mr Paul Thompson	Mr Glenn Duncan
Ms Melissa Clark	Mrs Pamela Garske		

THE LORD MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PARRAMATTA, THE MAYORS OF THE CITIES OF PENRITH, BLACKTOWN, HAWKESBURY, RYDE, HOLROYD, BLUE MOUNTAINS, THE HILLS, HORNSBY AND THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS OF THE GIRL GUIDES WITHIN GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION.
5.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs Jan Playford	HONORARY COMMISSIONER
Mr Peter Nickl	REGION COMMISSIONER INTERNATIONAL
Mr Peter Steime	DELEGATE PINNAROO SCOUT FELLOWSHIP
Mr Lyall Wood AM RFD	DELEGATE CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ms Melissa Clark | DELEGATE CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW |
| Mr Paul Thompson | DELEGATE BLUE MOUNTAINS FELLOWSHIP |
| Mr Michael Majoor | DELEGATE HOLROYD DISTRICT |
| Mr Glen Duncan | DELEGATE PARRAMATTA DISTRICT |
| Mr Harry Anderson | DELEGATE PENRITH DISTRICT |
| Ms Jodie Richards | DELEGATE BLACKTOWN DISTRICT |
| | REGION ROVER COUNCIL VICE CHAIR |

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

That the meetings of the Region Executive Committee be held on the 3rd Monday of each month except January commencing at 7.30 pm and should that day be a public holiday the meeting will be held the following month.

6.

DELEGATES TO NSW STATE COUNCIL

THE REGION COMMISSIONER

THE REGION PRESIDENT

THE REGION CHAIRMAN

MRS JAN PLAYFORD

MR PETER NICKL
7.

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW MANAGEMENT BOARD

Producer/Director	Dr Robert Lang	Musical Director	Dr Jeanie Wood
Chairman	Mr Lyall Wood AM RFD	Technical Director	Mr Peter Lee
Secretary	Mrs Nicole Brooke	Promotion Director	Mrs Dianne Carroll
Treasurer	Mrs Theresa Finch		

MOVED: Gavan Hall SECONDED: John Gale
8.

ADDRESS BY Mr Doug Menzies, NSW Chief Commissioner

ADDRESS BY Mr Peter Read, Chairman State Executive Council

PRESENTATION BY 2ND BAULKHAM HILLS VENTURERS on their recent trip to participate in Scouting in Vanuatu

Mr. Alan Overton thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 3.40 pm followed by afternoon tea provided by Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship.

REGION COMMISSIONER

It gives me great pleasure to present the 65th annual report of Greater Western Sydney Region. Our Region consists of 45 groups, 4 Scout Fellowships and 10 Rover Crews. With the assistance of the Region Executive we have continued to keep an eye on properties which are currently in region control and do not have active scout groups in them. We have been able to allow community groups to utilise these buildings until we can reactivate scouting in these locations.

In the past 12 months, with input from the sectional Region Commissioners, we have prepared a five year plan for our region and are currently looking at groups in some districts who need some assistance and guidance to increase their numbers in order to remain viable. We are also looking at reopening some groups which closed through a lack of youth in their locality and the demographics have now changed with older residents moving on and young families taking their place. This is an ongoing program over the next five years.

The Region consists of seven districts, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Hills, Holroyd, Parramatta and Penrith. Unfortunately after being District Commissioner for Blue Mountains for a period of 10 years, Paul Roach has tendered his resignation but is not lost to scouting as he has elected to be the representative for Blue Mountains on the Region Executive. After 5 ½ years in the role, Sandra Parker also decided to step down as District Commissioner for Blacktown and she has been transferred to the role of Region Advisor responsible to me and is organising the "Back to Bundilla Day" in September 2012. David Stopps has been appointed as Region Commissioner Special Duties and is currently administering Blacktown District.

We said goodbye to Tricia Shaw our Region Commissioner Cub Scouts and congratulate her on her appointment as State Commissioner Cub Scouts. Anne Thompson was appointed to fill the role and I welcome Anne as part of my Region Team. Unfortunately I had to accept the resignation of Ann Pounder as Region Commissioner Adult Training and Development but I have transferred Ann's appointment to Honorary

Commissioner and she is assisting Sandra Parker in organising the "Back to Bundilla Day". Thanks for 11 years service (Tricia) and 8 years (Ann) in your roles.

In July last year we had the pleasure to welcome David and Tracey Stopps and their family on board as our new Camp Caretakers at Bundilla and we have had comments that the appearance of the grounds have already improved. Bundilla is full most weekends with scouts, guides, church and school groups and on week days we have some commercial hirers.

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in obtaining a grant from the State Government to remove the asbestos from the roof of the layside shelter and the erection of a fence at the camp residence. We have however replaced the kitchen in the Brownsea with modern up to date stainless steel cupboards and appliances. With the kind assistance of Bunnings we have been able to replace the old tables in

the Brownsea with 20 new fold up tables which are far easier to handle and stack. A big thank you to the Management at Bunnings for their generosity to scouting.

It is great to have a good working relationship with Geoff McGrath and his Region Executive and it is with pleasure that I can report that for the first time in many years we have every district and the four Fellowships represented. Thanks to Alan Overton our Region President and the Region

Executive for your support of Geoff and scouting in general. Geoff and I were invited to attend Julie Owens volunteer's night and congratulations to Alan Overton who was presented with a volunteer's award.

It is hard to operate without a good team behind you and my team is a special bunch of people who are not only dedicated to their duties, but perform at an exceptionally high level and give up precious spare time to "do their best". Every section is running smoothly with region activities geared to the age of the participants and you will see from the section reports how busy they have been during the past year. I do not wish to single people out but must note the contribution of Matt Thompson as our Region Webmaster and Anne Thompson who does such a wonderful job on the Region Bulletin each month.



To all the leaders and volunteer supporters who give so freely of their time to provide good scouting to the youth members I commend you on your commitment to scouting. Whether you wear a uniform or not, your dedication and time given freely is what keeps scouting going forward. We want you to know we couldn't do without you.

And finally to our Region Office ladies I am sure you will all join with me in thanking them for the time they dedicate to keeping this region running as efficiently as it does. We really couldn't do without them as part of our team.

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

Neville Henderson
Region Commissioner



REGION CHAIRMAN

Another interesting year for the Region Executive who have been active during the year and it is pleasing to report that as at this meeting we now have a delegate from all the districts as well as the four Scout Fellowships have representatives. Welcome to Graham Cuneo (Hills District Delegate), Paul Roach (Blue Mountains Delegate) and Debbie Freeman (Hawkesbury District and Blackhorse Scout Fellowship Delegate).

During the year I was invited as Region Chairman to attend the opening of the Hawkesbury Woodturners premises at Wilberforce. They have done an excellent job in getting this previously unoccupied scout hall into a usable community property for their use whilst being retained for future scouting needs.

The Region President, Alan Overton and Region Commissioner were guests of St Johns Ambulance who have leased the Toongabbie West property from us and they have also done a remarkable amount of

work to renovate these premises. Once again this is another property we are holding for future scouting needs.

We were approached by the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club, who had been meeting in a member's garage, for any empty scout halls as they were desperate to find suitable premises to allow them to continue their community work. At the time they approached us we were able to offer a hall at Glenbrook which was being vacated by 1st Emu Plains Group who had taken over an empty hall at Lapstone. The radio club have also commenced upgrading the facilities.

The Region Commissioner and myself were invited to attend a Christmas function arranged by one of our Patrons, Julie Owens, at which Alan Overton received a Volunteer Award for the work he does in the community. Congratulations and well done Alan.

You will have noticed the improvement of our facilities at Bundilla and we are pleased to see the number of scouting and community groups using our camp site. During the year we were able to have the new kitchen installed in the Brownsea Hut as well as the solar hot water installed around the camp. Unfortunately we were not successful with funding for the projects we are looking to do in the future at Bundilla. We will apply again during the next round.

I must comment on the 2011 Awards Dinner at Blacktown RSL in October when almost 260 people were present to receive their Good Service Awards. These events do not just happen and a big thank you goes to our excellent office ladies, Maggi and Kim.

Thanks to the Region Executive members for their support and we look forward to an even better year in 2012/2013.

Geoff McGrath
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 2012

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	Administration		
	Income		
1,656	Saleable Items Income	2,131	1,500
-	Donation and Grants	950	-
889	Sundry Income	461	650
2,545		3,542	2,150
	Expenditure		
41,397	Salaries and On Costs	42,155	40,272
159	Staff Recruitment	211	500
685	Awards, Badges & Scarves	2,140	600
315	Computer Expenses	295	600
3,057	Depreciation	2,571	2,800
1,433	Meeting/Award Dinner Expenses, net of receipts	1,263	2,200
1,080	Postage	1,290	800
1,339	Printing & Stationery	1,362	1,600
691	Repairs & Maintenance	6	1,600
778	Saleable Items Cost	50	1,000
477	Security of Premises	-	-
2,380	Telephone	1,802	2,200
3,676	Sundry Expense	294	175
57,467		53,439	54,347
(54,922)	Net Administration Cost	(49,897)	(52,197)
(3,042)	Development & Promotion	(1,874)	(2,515)
	Camps & Activity Centres		
(8,999)	Bundilla	(3,868)	(28,465)
(8,999)		(3,868)	(28,465)
	Scouting Activities		
2,613	RC Section - Joeys	70	50
129	RC Section - Cubs	1,980	-
10,305	RC Section - Scouts	5,853	410
2,986	RC Section - Venturers	1,039	755
41	RC Section - Rovers	(15)	-
5,616	RC Section - Activities	5,844	1,500
(1,375)	RC Section - Others	(544)	(100)
180	International Section	(200)	(200)
7,453	Gang Show	3,736	5,880
(380)	Districts	(500)	(700)
27,568		17,263	7,595
117	Leader Training	6,283	(400)
(5,023)	Property	(13,985)	7,270
(44,301)	Net Region Cost of Operation	(46,078)	(68,712)

Above summary is an extract from the audited accounts of The Scout Association of Australia, NSW Branch, for the year ended 31st March 2012

BUNDILLA SCOUT CAMP

Since taking over as Caretakers in 2011, our family feel we have made a difference to the experience that everyone has had when they have attended Bundilla.

We have seen our new kitchen installed in the Brownsea Hut, have had new water saving shower roses installed, the dorms have been painted and everything looks fresh and new. We have fixed lights, signs and grassed areas. Bundilla is looking great and more alive. if you haven't visited us lately you will definitely enjoy the difference.

The use of the facilities by both Scouting and Non Scouting organisations has been pleasing to us. We have had a number of school groups, guiding groups and corporate people attend during the year.

The rest of 2012 is going to be a busy one with shakedown camps for AJ2013 and many more scouting activities being held here this year. Bundilla is getting very busy with bookings, Scout and non Scouting Groups alike. So, if you are thinking of a camp at Bundilla, book now to avoid disappointment.

Tracey and I look forward to seeing you at Bundilla, if we can help make your time more enjoyable please do not hesitate to ask. Alternatively if you find something that needs attention please tell us so we can fix any problems in a timely fashion.

A special thanks to Geoff McGrath for the amount of time and effort he spends at Bundilla

David & Tracey Stopps
Caretakers
Bundilla Scout Camp



REGION OFFICE

We have now completed our second year of service and are settled into the routine of running a scouting office.

As we write this report we are taking in the applications for Joey Fun Day as well as Cub Scout Fun Day and the early bird Jamborette forms. It is amazing that leaders think that the close off date is the day you have to put the forms into the office. Occasionally it would be great if all the forms for an activity were in at least a week before close off. One can only dream.

We have had a good clean up of the office and have new desks which were donated by Fairfield West Public School. They are slightly smaller than our previous desks but are cleaner and a lighter colour and match the other furniture which was donated by the school. At the same time we received a new computer and a lap top from state office. Now we can take the laptop home on the occasions we now need to catch up at home or work from home.

The work load is going to increase with changes to the way the census is handled and we hope the various groups work with us to make the transition easier for us. Remember, when things come in at the last minute and there is a problem we are not always able to find the correct information and get through within the set time frame.

Thanks to the visitors to the office who are patient when we are handling their enquiries or writing a receipt. It is nice to deal with pleasant people and makes the job more pleasant.

It is a pleasure to work with our region team and a special thanks must go to Geoff McGrath for the extra work he does around Bundilla and the way he is concerned about our health and safety.

Maggi Roynon & Kim Harris
Region Office Staff



SECTION REPORTS

JOEY SCOUTS

The Joey Scout section has continued to grow in 2011. We welcomed 1st Oakville Joey Mob in April and 1st Greystanes Joey Mob in November. This means we have 25 mobs registered in Greater Western Sydney.



The Joey Scout Fun Day was held in August 2011 as many leaders were committed to attending a leaders' Konara in May. 189 Joey scouts and over 55 leaders registered to attend the day based on "Adventure". From the pirate activities in the Brownsea kitchen to the giant earth ball on the

parade ground and onto the science, water, obstacles, small ambulances and space craft on the camping flat, it was all adventure. Some very tired Joey Scouts and many very tired leaders went home feeling elated knowing what scouting was all about – FUN.

The State Commissioner for Joey scouts, Lyn Mann, was part of the Australian contingent for the 2011 World Jamboree in Sweden. She encouraged everyone to take part in the "Join in Jamboree" activities to promote the idea of jamborees as part of the scouting culture and also to encourage learning about other countries. Many mobs took up her challenge and are following up with International activities this year. The theme for the Joey Fun Day and also Scouts in Action for 2012 is "International". It is wonderful to see the imagination of leaders being used to promote different ideas.

We kept promoting nature hikes for our Joey Scout mobs in 2011 with the Trek About badge. The idea has been taken up by other regions and it is now a popular outing. In 2011 "penny hikes" were popular where the leader tossed a coin at each intersection and that decided left or right. Some leaders had to be creative with the toss so that they returned to the right spot at the end of the hike!

There were fewer mob holidays in 2011. There were a variety of reasons for this, mainly the leader requirements and cost. One mob holiday that did

occur was Blaxland Taipans and 1st Winston Hills at Kariong with a Caveman theme. This was a very successful camp with some very happy Joey Scouts and some enthusiastic parents. There are always funny stories that come from camps and this adds to our folklore for training eg. How many lettuces per day do you need for 50 people? The answer is not to rely on computer estimates.

The new e-learning in training has provided a few challenges for Joey Scout leaders in knowing who is qualified to do what. With help from our very able training team most leaders are confident in their role.

In 2011 29 Joey Scouts were awarded a Promise challenge badge. Congratulations to those children.



Kyle Walker	1st Toongabbie
Bailey Angus	1st North Rocks
Robert Burrows	1st Carlingford
Seth Neal	1st South Penrith - Jamison Mob
Rocco Pugliese	1st Carlingford
Macy Chan	1st Kings Langley
Tristan Bollard	1st Balcombe Heights
Bethany Vella	1st Kings Langley
James Halls	1st Blaxland- Taipans
Adam Seymonsbergen ..	1st South Penrith - Jamison Mob
Lincoln Thompson	1st Blaxland - Taipans
Corelle Spagnolo	1st Ermington
Lachlan Rec	1st North Rocks
William Jones	1st Kellyville
Charlotte Owen	1st Blaxland - Taipans
James Ryan	1st Ermington
Karl Gibian	1st Carlingford
Carley Verco	1st Carlingford
Oliver Minty	1st Winston Hills
Lachlan Watts	1st Oakville
Eleanor Maddock	1st Blaxland Taipans
Amanda Borazio	1st Kings Langley
Angus Katen	1st Winston Hills
Mitchell Pagett	2nd Castle Hill
Cassidy Garland	1st Quakers Hill-Doonside
Georgia Green	1st Quakers Hill-Doonside
Jordan Bugeja	1st Balcombe Heights
Alex Quan	2nd Castle Hill
Loren Green	2nd Castle Hill

A big thank you must go to all the dedicated leaders in the Joey Scout mobs of Greater Western Sydney. You are the inspiration for the youth members.

Kathy Cuneo

Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)

CUB SCOUTS

The last twelve months have just flown by, since taking up my new appointment. First off, I must say, on behalf of everyone in the Region, a huge thank you to Tricia Shaw, our former RC Cub Scouts, for the fantastic job she did for the Cub Scouts and Leaders in GWSR. Her dedication, enthusiasm and innovative ideas, kept the Leaders on their toes and the Cub Scouts busy learning and having fun!

My thanks also to Tricia for having the confidence in me, to recommend me for the role she vacated, to take up her new appointment as State Commissioner Cub Scouts. Congratulations Tricia. It has been a steep learning curve, but with Tricia and Neville's support and a terrific Seeonee Team, we have managed to continue to deliver good Cubbing to the Region.

I'll start the year's overview with the biannual Cub Day at the Region Jamborette. Many Cubs enjoyed the fun and challenging bases. Thanks to Robin and his team for organising such a great event.

Quite a few packs took part in the Cook Off at District level and the cubs proved to be dab hands at preparing some excellent meals. Congratulations to 1st Carlingford who won the Region Cook Off and then went on to win the State Cook Off title, held at Glenfield Scout Camp in atrocious weather!

A total of 109 Cub Scouts took part in our two Cub Scout Leadership Courses conducted at Bundilla. Their feedback has been very positive and most useful for planning future courses. Thank you to Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship for cooking and keeping us well fed on these courses.

Cub Baanya, our annual camp for older Cub Scouts held at Bundilla, was well attended. Thank you to the District Leaders (Cub Scouts) who organised and ran the bases with their teams, Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship who always do an excellent job of the Map and Compass base, the Scouts who gave up their weekend to help teach the Cubs all about Patrols and Jo Hillyard CSL 1st Blaxland, who conducted a wonderful Campfire for us. Last but not least I must thank Ayla-Shannyn, Tanaya, Jye and Kyara Sloan, who cheerfully volunteered their services at very short notice, you were greatly appreciated.

Fourteen Venturers participated in our annual Youth Helpers Course. They were an absolute delight to work with – enthusiastic, team players and keen to share



ideas with their peers. These young people provide invaluable help to the Leaders they work with and are great mentors for the youth members, whether they are Joey Scouts or Cub Scouts. How wonderful it would be to have a Youth Helper in every Mob and Pack in the Region. Thank you to Kathy Cuneo RC Joey Scouts, for helping to run the course.

Congratulations to all the Cub Scouts who have achieved their Grey Wolf Award and well done to their Leaders who put the extra effort into helping their Cubs achieve this award. I hope you are making good use of the Jungle Book resources the Cubs are making for their Packs.

The District Cub Scout Leaders have also been kept busy with the District Leaders Conference at Heathcote, conducting their District Seeonees, attending Region Seeonees, helping on Region courses and events, attending District Councils, organising District events, presenting Grey Wolf awards, attending group functions and supporting and encouraging their Cub Scout Leaders - to mention just a few of their duties!

A few of our Leaders attended the first ever State Palaver, held at Morisset and organised by Tricia Shaw with an International theme. We had a marvellous time, working our way around a variety of bases, meeting up with old friends and making new ones, enjoying a delicious St Patrick's Day dinner in a sea of green outfits and gaining new program and craft ideas to share with the Leaders who did not attend. Congratulations to Tricia and her team for a wonderful weekend – we are looking forward to the next one!

We have had a number of changes in the Districts: Lorraine Shaw transferred from DLCS Blacktown to DA Blacktown and is busy working on some special projects for our RC. Many thanks Lorraine for all your hard work and support and thank you for your excellent succession planning, training up Alison Sullivan to take over your vacated role! Welcome Alison, who is proving to be a wonderful asset to our team.

Sadly we had to say farewell to Andy Jenkinson, DLCS Hill South, when he tendered his resignation due to work and family commitments. However, we were fortunate indeed to have Gabie Thompson agree to take on the role. Thank you and welcome Gabie, another wonderful asset to our team.

Parramatta District has been without a DLCS for quite some time. Sandy Knox, CSL 1st Ermington, has done a brilliant job of keeping her fellow Leaders well informed, working together and rotating through attending Region Seonee. Thank you Sandy for all your hard work and support, we will miss you at Region Seonee. No doubt Sandy will be a good mentor for Melissa Cahill, the recently appointed DLCS for Parramatta District. Welcome Melissa to our Team, we hope you enjoy your new role.

Holroyd District was left without a DLCS when I unexpectedly became the RCCS! How fortunate they were, when the ever busy, Jeff Hook CSL 1st Westmead, agreed to become the Seonee Leader. Jeff is doing a great job of not just running his own Pack, but helping to organise District events, attend Region Seonee and chair District Seonee. His skills and knowledge are invaluable for helping to support and guide his fellow Cub Scout Leaders, as well as me (when I ask for his advice)! Thank you Jeff.

Finally a huge thank you to the rest of my wonderful Team: Melissa Harding DLCS Blue Mountains, Chris Casley DLCS Penrith City, Phyllis McAlpine DLCS Hawkesbury District and Region Advisors Shirley Robinson and Charlene Bordley. These lovely ladies have accepted me into the role and continue to offer their help, support, advice and encouragement. What a fabulous Team of dedicated Leaders, who spend countless hours in the service of Scouting.

Before signing off I must thank our Region Commissioner, Neville Henderson for all his support, the generous use of Bundilla for most of our activities and for taking time out of his busy schedule to call in and visit the Cub Scouts and have a chat with the Leaders at Region events.

Anne Thompson
Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts)



Grey Wolf Awards 2011-2012

1st Balcombe Heights Emma Pope Joshua Kahane Kaelan Bollard	1st Grose Vale Isabella Bonazza Keighlyn Scott
2nd Baulkham Hills Ben Van de Vorstenbosch Benjamin Humphries	1st Hazelbrook Alexander Balcar-Smith Monty Conke Oliver Percival
1st Blackheath Allia Boehringer	1st Kellyville James Goode
1st/2nd Blacktown Jonathan Connor Benjamin Nicholls William Wade	2nd Kings Langley Connor Abnett
1st Blaxland Tessa Hitchins Clare Dunning Caitlin Mason Lachlan Hibbard	1st/2nd Merrylands Matthew McGuire Catalina Gonzalez Craig Lewis
1st Cambridge Park Amy Priest	3rd Merrylands Ricky Newell Paul Charbel
1st Carlingford Michael Burrows Aland Ahmed Bailey Mackres Joshua Stamminger Joshua Verco	1st Murray Farm Stephanie Nelson
1st Castle Hill Aaron Morden	1st Oakville William Freeman Jarrod Harber Ashleigh Greely Isabella Simmons Ashleigh Allan Jayson Hawkins James Miller
1st Dural Mitchell O'Connell	1st South Penrith Harrison Drysdale Mitchell Stein Daniel Apap Bailey Neal Liam Pye
1st Ermington Mia Mylonas Timothy Marks Joel Lummis Zachary Creighton Abigail Ewings Chris Richard	1st Springwood Ewan Huthnance
1st Greystanes Archy Fowler Isabelle Singleton	1st Toongabbie Marshall Frost Natasha Lette
1st Glossodia Olivia Plucke	1st Quakers Hill/Doonside Lachlan Fraser Kaitlyn Green Christopher Magro
1st Granville Jaime Hocking	

SCOUTS

Our annual Region Jamborette in 2011 was very well attended. Our numbers were touching on the 1000 mark. At one stage we were not sure if we would have enough badges for everyone but just made it. There were no major incidents and we provided 29 activity bases to keep the Scouts entertained. The Jamborette theme was “Cartoon Capers” and the Jamborette Award was an engraved book light.

The car parking was handled differently with our setting aside an area near the entrance below the National Parks office as well as making use of the existing proper spaces next to camp sites. A permit was issued to all the vehicles of those camping over the weekend which we covered under our costs. Day visitors purchased one of these permits or a National Parks parking ticket from the vending machine. With Cub Day on the Sunday we had a few teething problems as we had most of them come in from the Bents Basin Road side and park in that area. Over all it worked out fairly well.

The mobile toilet system from Splashdown worked well and we did not have an overflow problem from the Parks system.

The Region Scout Youth Council (SYC) has not been operating as well as we wanted it to during the year and we also lost our Mentor, Tom Buin. Some Districts are successfully running District SYC meetings which is really good.

Since May last year we have had three Scouts achieve the Scout Medallion with one whose project is completed and we are waiting on approval of his report. Another Scout is working on her project at the moment. We have had four Scouts achieve their Green Cords. Though our Medallion numbers are down the quality of projects for the Medallion coming out of our Region have been quite exceptional. The State Commissioner for Scouts is really impressed with our Scouts in what they are achieving. This past years Australian Scout Medallion recipients are:

AUSTRALIAN SCOUT MEDALLION	
Mathew Anderson	1st Oakville
Jessica Smith	1st Oakville
Mitchell Howlett	1st Quakers Hill / Doonside
James Chapman	1st/2nd Merrylands
Alfred Lee	1st Westmead
Amanda Wade	1st/2nd Blacktown

Bravo to all.
Robin Garrett
Region Commissioner (Scouts)

VENTURER SCOUTS

The Venturer Scouts throughout the Region have enjoyed another massively busy year with attendance at a wide range of exciting events. Membership has remained strong with two new Units opening up at 1st Erskine Park and 1st Kellyville and several new adult leaders recruited into the section. A total of eight Queen’s Scout Awards were awarded during the past year to Rob Slater (2nd Baulkham Hills); Kristin Bartlett, Liam Batchelor, Daniel Mort and Nicola Rammers (1st Carlingford); Miles Stepniewski (1st Emu Plains); Mitchell Hayes (1st North Rocks); and Angus Boxall (1st Winston Hills). It was also very pleasing to see a large number of Venturer Scout Leaders recognised in the Good Service Awards announced on World Scout Day.



Along with over 40,000 Scouts from around the world, several members from the Region attended the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Sweden and enjoyed an absolutely amazing experience filled with a great diversity of culture from every corner of the globe. Special guests included Chief Scout of the UK, Bear Grylls and the King of Sweden who each added huge enthusiasm to the arena performances.

“Camp in Camp” was a unique opportunity to stay one night away from the Jamboree site in the company of local Scouts at local campgrounds. This was definitely a highlight of the journey and gave a more intimate appreciation of traditional Swedish scouting. Home hospitality was also amazing and all of the youth members from Australia greatly enjoyed the interaction with their host families.



After returning to Copenhagen, many of us continued our travels into Norway for a further tour of the spectacular glacial landscape on our way to the Arctic Circle. Add the rush of the Olympic bobsled at Lillehammer and the amazing views over Oslo from the Olympic ski jump, and I can guarantee that this was certainly a fun packed month of travel!



Our annual camp – Waratah – was adopted as a NSW Branch event last year. As such, we introduced a new initiative in 2011 – Bud – to allow the Scout and Venturer Scout sections to camp together in September. As a younger version of our traditional format, it was particularly exciting to appoint an organising team solely of Venturer Scouts to coordinate the entire weekend. The event was held at Glenrock Scout Camp and was a perfect opportunity to engage the Scouts in a diverse program of activities. Each of the Scouts used the camp towards their Try Venturing Badges and the Region is now pleased to see many of these participants moving into the Venturer Scout section.



In October, three Venturer Scouts from the Region were selected to attend the new “Mawson Scholarship in Leadership”. Angus Boxall, Melinda Varcoe and Patrick Watts joined with other young leaders from around Australia for a week long advanced training program in Melbourne. This new initiative provides an excellent springboard to many exciting leadership opportunities within the association and we look

forward to more Venturer Scouts from the Region accepting the challenge in the future.



Operation Dragnet was the new NSW Venturer Scout competition in 2011. Congratulations go to 1st North Mt Druitt Venturer Scout Unit on winning the event in a very close race. The team succeeded in avoiding dozens of seeker teams through the Vulcan State Forest over 36 hours to cross the finish line with all lives intact. This was a massive effort, with teams having to navigate over challenging terrain, often at night, in thick pine forest, and being careful to avoid attracting unwanted attention. Line honours were awarded to a team from South Coast and Tablelands Region crossing the finish line only 12 seconds after midday Sunday.



The 15th Australian Venture was held in Tasmania during January with great success. 42 Venturers and 6 Adults represented the Region and had a thoroughly enjoyable experience. 16 of these members joined the NSW Pre-Tour and started their journey on 27 December for the flight to Melbourne and an overnight cruise on the Spirit of Tasmania. Taking over the ship, the Venturers enjoyed a more pleasant crossing of Bass Strait than the Sydney to Hobart yacht race the day before, but still rather rough nonetheless.

Waking to see the foreign coastline approach, the first day was not wasted, with an early morning visit to the Anvers Chocolate Factory. This merely gave everyone the energy for a trip to Cradle Mountain and an afternoon walk around Dove Lake. The adventure continued with a visit to the Stanley Nut and the Dismal Swamp, as well as tours of Seahorse World and the Beaconsfield Gold Mine. The next day allowed a swim at Freycinet National Park before joining the Victorian and WA Contingents for a massive New

Year's Eve party at Hobart University. A day at Port Arthur, a dip at the Hastings Thermal Pool, a walk among the giants at the Tahune Forest Airwalk and a visit to the Cadbury Chocolate Factory rounded out the major activities.



With the rest of the Contingent joining together in Hobart in early January, the excitement could only grow as we soon arrived on site at Quercus Park, near Launceston. Some 1,400 Venturers and Leaders from around Australia and the World descended on the showground for two more weeks of fun and activities. Five of these days were away from the site on expeditions. Each participant had the choice of expedition with some learning to scuba dive, others bushwalking in the Cradle Mountain National Park, enjoying the opportunity to sit on the beach, or even a full-on extreme sports tour. Indeed the entire week was filled with Venturers abseiling, bush carting, horse riding, 4WDing, mountain biking, sailing, shooting, kayaking and much more.

When everyone returned on site for the final week, the action did not disappoint, with buggies, laser skirmish and the internet cafe being populate haunts. And the offsite activities continued with a tour of Launceston, scenic flights, horse riding, shooting and many more activities than could possibly be published. All in all, an absolutely massive array of fun, friendships and excitement had by all. I would like to extend a huge



thank you to each of the leaders that accompanied the NSW Contingent to Tasmania. I am sure they will all agree that this was a hugely enjoyable experience and I look forward to having an even larger attendance at the next Australian Venture in Adelaide in January 2015!

An extra Region camp was added to the calendar in February to allow all Unit Council members and their Adult Leaders to receive training in effective management of the section. Adult Leaders completed their Areas of Personal Growth elective while our Unit Council members discussed programming, recruitment and the award scheme. Paul Shoemark of St Luke's Anglican Church at Northmead also attended the weekend to assist the Venturer Scouts in completing their Ideals badge.

A very successful Dragon Skin 2012 was held at Penrose State Forest to surprisingly warm and sunny conditions. Greater Western Sydney was represented by 124 Venturers from across the Region. Particular congratulations go to team 14 from 1st Springwood who finished in fifth place and team 34 from 1st Kings Langley who finished in eleventh position!



The volume of activities that we have enjoyed within GWS this year would not have been possible without the dedication and support from a large team of adult leaders. In particular, the demands on our staff during Operation Dragnet were beyond that of any previous event that we have held, and I sincerely express my appreciation to every volunteer and supporter for their contributions in the past twelve months.

The Region Venturer Team of Judy Barr, Steve Wallace and Chris Lummis have also provided immeasurable support to myself in managing the section. Thank you to every Venturer Scout, Adult Leader and Supporter on an excellent year, and I shall look forward to reporting again next year on yet another busy calendar of events.

Aaron Wardle

Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts)

Sherwood Moot

I am pleased to report that 1st/2nd Merrylands Rover Crew ran a successful Region moot on the weekend of 5th to 7th August 2011 at Glenfield Scout Activity Centre. 166 Rovers from GWS, NSW and Victoria came together for a fun weekend of medieval themed activities. Some of the highlights were; archery, candle making, jousting, sparring, siege workshop, sock/slime wrestling, red bull girls, merry men and sheriffs guard training academy, a huge flour/water fight, fire twirling, trivia, 'rescue of maid marion' iron gut, and of course, our fun at the fair. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we received some great feedback after the event.

Everyone was treated to a real feast on the Saturday night. Our amazing catering team worked all day to prepare for us a baked dinner to enjoy - with roast beef on a spit, roast chicken, roast potatoes, pumpkins, corn, peas and carrots a plenty! After adding some medieval music, decorations, fires and costumes - it became a real medieval banquet!

Congratulations go to Blaxland 'Kalandadoo' Rover Crew for taking out 1st place in the Region competition, followed closely by Kings Langley Rover Crew in 2nd place and 1st North Mount Druitt Rover Crew in 3rd place.

I would like to give a big bravo to 1st/2nd Merrylands Rover Crew for all the hard work and dedication they put into running this moot - it was a huge team effort and we are all very pleased with the result.

I would also like to acknowledge the following people for their amazing support of Sherwood Moot; Anne & Paul Thompson, Meagan Lee, Bec Lee, Michael & Linda Apthorpe, Ray Shepherd, Main Event Function Centre, Jeff Hook, Stewart & Jenny Hawes and the camp wardens of Glenfield Scout Activity Centre and the GWS Region Rover Council.

Yours in Roving,

Matt Thompson

Moot Chief, Sherwood Moot
Rover, 1st/2nd Merrylands Rover Crew



2011 ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS



SILVER KANGAROO – for Eminent Achievement and Meritorious Service
ROBINSON, Shirley----- Region Adviser, Greater Western Sydney Region



SILVER EMU – for Sustained and Exceptional Service
BARR, Frank ----- District Leader(Training), Blue Mountains District



SILVER WATTLE – for Outstanding Service
BARNES, Kenneth ----- Group Leader, 1st Westmead Scout Group
BARR, Judith Ann ----- District Venturer Leader, Blue Mountains District
BRIGDEN, Bruce ----- Scout Leader, 1st Wentworthville Scout Troop
CLARKE, Melissa ----- District Cub Scout Leader, Blue Mountains District
GRAY, Karen-Lee ----- District Joey Scout Leader, Nepean District
HANNAN, Valerie ----- Group Adviser, 1st Pendle Hill Scout Group
HORNSTRA, Lars ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Troop
MANSON, Owen ----- Group Leader, 2nd Northmead Scout Group
MUNRO, James ----- Fellowship Member, Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship
WARDELL, Jennifer ----- Rover Adviser(Responsible), Kings Langley Rover Crew
WILKINSON, Gary ----- Scout Leader, 1st Hazelbrook Scout Troop



SILVER ARROWHEAD – for Excellent Service
ANDERSON, Andrew ----- Crew Leader (Appointed), 1st North Mt Druitt Rover Crew
BELCHER, Mark ----- Group Leader, 1st Emu Plains Scout Group
BORDLEY, Charlene ----- Region Adviser, Greater Western Sydney Region
CASLEY, Christine ----- District Cub Scout Leader, Penrith City District
CUNEO, Kathleen ----- Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts), Greater Western Sydney Region
DALZIEL, Margo ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Venturer Unit
DRURY, Robert ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Cub Pack "Barloo"
EDWARDS, Simon ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Dural Venturer Unit
FREEMAN, Gregory ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Scout Troop
GANE, Philip ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Emu Plains Venturer Unit
GRAHAM, Brett ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith Scout Troop
HAYES, Elizabeth ----- Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Scout Troop
MERCIECA, Joseph ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Venturer Unit
POLLOCK, Fredrick ----- Joey Scout Leader, 2nd Kings Langley Joey Mob
ROSS, Graham ----- Scout Leader, 1st Penrith Scout Troop
SHAW, John ----- Fellowship Member, Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship
SHAW, Lorraine ----- District Cub Scout Leader, Blacktown District
SNELLING, Andrew ----- Scout Leader, 1st Granville Scout Troop
WALLACE, Stephen ----- District Venturer Leader, Blacktown District
WARDLE, Jenny ----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship
WATTS, Duncan ----- Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Scout Troop
WHEAT, Adam ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Hazelbrook Venturer Unit
WILLIAMS, Michelle ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 3rd Merrylands Scout Troop
WOODBURY, Peter ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, West Pennant Hills Valley Venturer Unit

2012 ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS CONTINUED...

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT – For Good Service

AQUILINA, John	Cub Scout Leader, 1st Glossodia Cub Pack
BURR, Richard	Scout Leader, 1st North Mt Druitt Scout Troop
BURR, Sharon	Assistant Scout Leader, 1st North Mt Druitt Scout Troop
CAHILL, Melissa	Crew Leader (Not Appointed), Kings Langley Rover Crew
CAMERON, Connie	Group Chairman, 1st South Penrith Scout Group
CONNOR, Glenn	Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Troop
COWEN, Stuart	Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Troop
DE JERSEY, Andrew	Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Venturer Unit
DEARDEN, Geoff	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Cub Pack “Alleena”
DOUGLAS, Carol	Joey Scout Leader, 1st Dural Joey Mob
EMERY, Andre	Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Westmead Scout Troop
FRANCIS, Belinda	Assistant Group Leader, West Pennant Hills Valley Scout Group
HENRIKSSON, Philomena	Scout Leader, 1st Murray Farm Scout Troop
HOWARD, Clifford	Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Granville Scout Troop
HYATT, Paula	Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Emu Plains Venturer Unit
JENNIS, Anthony	Cub Scout Leader, West Pennant Hills Valley Cub Pack
LITTLEJOHNS, Sharon	Supporter, 1st Blaxland Scout Group
LOUAT, Beverley	Cub Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith Cub Pack “Panther”
LOVE, David	Scout Leader, West Pennant Hills Valley Scout Troop
LUTZ, Ian	Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Cub Pack “Darzee”
MCGARRY, Carol	Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Venturer Unit
MCGRATH, Eliza	Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Westmead Venturer Unit
MCLEAN, Shauna	Group Secretary, 1st Blaxland Scout Group
MCLEAN-MURRAY, Julie	Associate Leader(Group), 1st Toongabbie Scout Group
OA’ARIKI, Gertrude	Scout Leader, 1st St Marys Scout Troop
OLUFSEN, Corey	Crew Leader (Appointed), 1st North Mt Druitt Rover Crew
RALSTON, Wendy	Group Chairman, 1st North Rocks Scout Group
RICHARDS, Jodie	Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Joey Mob
ROSS, Ian	Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Venturer Unit
SMITH, Rosemary	Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Scout Troop
SPALDING, Maurice	Group Leader, 1st Penrith Scout Group
SULLIVAN, Neal	Group Leader, 1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Scout Group
THOMPSON, Gabrielle	Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Cub Pack “Zazu”
VELLA, Matthew	Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Venturer Unit
WATTS, Caroline	Cub Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Cub Pack
WHITE, Sidney	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st St Marys Cub Pack
WINCHESTER, Aaron	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s) Cub Pack
WOOD, Robert	Group Leader, 1st North Mt Druitt Scout Troop

Adult Recognition Awards

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

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

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

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

The Awards are normally worn on Scouting occasions such as Annual General Meeting’s, Good Service Award presentations and on any other formal Scouting occasion, when it is stated that Scouting Decorations may be worn. Awardees should wear their medals on these occasions and be proud that their peers have acknowledged them for not only ‘doing their best’ but giving 110%.

DISTRICT REPORTS

BLACKTOWN

Well, what a year we have had! Firstly I would like to say thank you to Sandra Parker. Sandra was the District Commissioner (Blacktown) for 5 years but has decided to slow down a little and stood down at the end of 2011. I am grateful to Sandra for giving me the opportunity to try to fill her shoes.

Blacktown District has seen a lot of growth over the last 12 months from Joey’s to Rovers and let’s not forget the growth we have had in our Leaders.

A lot of our groups have been lucky with Government grants from many different sources; 1st/2nd Blacktown with Blacktown Council building a new Disabled toilet and shower; 1st Kings Langley, getting their funds for their new fence and Quakers Hill Doonside getting funding for the hall renovation.

We need to acknowledge the youth of Blacktown District. I have been to a number of Grey Wolf Presentations, Green Cord and Scout Medallion Presentations, and I believe a Queen’s Scout Presentation is coming up soon.

Blacktown District groups are alive with AJ2013 fever with over 65 youth members and 15 Adult members off next January to Maryborough, Qld.

We look forward to another successful year in 2013 and are looking for growth again this year

David Stopps
Acting District Commissioner

BLUE MOUNTAINS

Blue Mountains District extends from Lapstone to Blackheath with Groups at Blaxland, Springwood, Hazelbrook and Blackheath. As at the end of March District numbers were 38 Joeys, 86 Scouts, 101 Cubs, 30 Venturers, 31 Rovers and 60 Leaders. Of particular note is the doubling of the Rover numbers in twelve months – no doubt due to their approach to Scouting – from comments made to me they are a very highly regarded Crew.

Activities undertaken on a Group basis included: ANZAC Day, Vietnam Veterans Day, Springwood

Festival, Blackheath Wine/Food Festival, Blackheath Rhododendron Festival, family ski trip, Group bike hike, Blue Mountains Relay for Life. 1st Hazelbrook held their 90th birthday celebrations in February.

Fundraising mainly consisted of sausage sizzles at Bunnings and K Mart and a Trivia night.

Joeys – Unfortunately Hazelbrook mob is currently in recess until new leaders can be recruited – a waiting list (currently 14) is being held by the Group Leader. Activities undertaken by the Joeys included; bushwalk to see glowworms, visit to Air Activities Base, Buddy badge with neighbouring Mob, games/craft night, combined night with Cubs and Clean up Australia day with Rovers at Yellow Rock.

Cubs – All packs have been active with badge work and activities with 4 Grey Wolves awarded. Activities undertaken by Packs have included; visit to Air Activities Base, night hike, swimming night, roller skating, visit to climbing centre, a night visit to the UWS observatory and a District Pack Holiday at Cataract.

Scouts – A very successful District Camp was held near Hartley with Blaxland winning the Top Troop, Hazelbrook the Camping Award and Springwood coming 1st and 3rd in Rogaining. All Troops have been busy with badge work and a wide range of hikes etc all levels have been undertaken by all Troops. Activities undertaken have included; annual camp at Nord’s Wharf, Region/State Jamborette, leadership course, canoe course, first aid course, navigation night, billycart making/racing, ice skating, canoe expeditions, visit by Police Community Liaison Officer. At the time of writing all Troops are preparing for the 2013 Jamboree.

Venturers – All Units have been busy undertaking the various parts of their awards system with several starting on their Queens Scout. A wide range of activities have been undertaken including; Waratah, Dragon Skin, speech night, movie night, combined night with Rangers, rock climbing, leadership/unit management courses, visit to indoor shooting range, visit to Penrith Police station, Manly to Clontarf walk, scavenger hunt and a couch race through the streets of Glenbrook.

This is my last report as District Commissioner, after some ten years I have decided to stand down and will become the District Representative on the Region Executive. My thanks to the District Leaders, Group

Leaders who have been part of my team over the years. Also to the Leaders, parents and friends who have over the years brought Scouting to the youth of the Mountains. I wish you and your Groups all the best for the future.

Paul Roach
District Commissioner

HAWKESBURY

The district stretches from the plains around the Hawkesbury River near Windsor, into the foothills of the Blue Mountains. It is a mixture of rural properties, and residential suburbs. This environment allows the youth to engage in adventurous activities in their own district. There are the foothills of the Blue Mountains and both the Colo and Hawkesbury Rivers which are well used by all groups.

There is new residential and commercial development in the general area and this will continue to increase. There are four strong groups in the district, with all sections presented, from Joeys through to Rovers and on to Fellowship. There has been an increase in member numbers in the district overall, mostly in the scout section. This was partly due to major public exposure of the movement in the area including a very high profile at the Hawkesbury Agricultural Show and being in the public eye at most community events. As well as this, major recruiting drive has been undertaken by most groups and the district as a whole.

This year, 1st Hawkesbury will move from its present location in South Windsor, to the East Richmond hall. This change will give the group larger and better facilities, and a larger draw area. The Richmond area has had no scout group for some years, and the demographic of the area is changing. There are more young families moving into the area, which will help with recruiting new members for the group, both youth and leaders.

Joeys have restarted in the district due to demand, and numbers continue to rise. They are involved in community activities such as ANZAC day memorials and also attended the Hawkesbury Show. They attended the region Joey Fun Day and the venturers operated a Hawkesbury district activity base as well. Promise challenges were also earned by some of the Joeys this year.

The cubs attended a district wide environment camp at Ingleside camp and some packs attended the Walkabout Wildlife World on pack holidays. There have been a number of grey wolf presentations in the district and more are planned soon with most groups having cubs almost completing the award. There has been excellent progression rate of cubs linking to the scout section.

The jamboree in Queensland next year has been a catalyst for membership of the scout section, with numbers increasing steadily last year. This has resulted with a largest number of both youth and adults applying for this jamboree attendance. The scouts also attended the region jamborette, state rally, scout hike and also participated in various courses. These include water activity course, basic leadership course, and the recent bushwalking qualification course at Bundilla.

Venturers from the district attended the 15th Australian Venture in Tasmania recently and some have applied to attend the New Zealand Venture early next year. They also sent teams to Dragon skin and to Waratah. They were also instrumental in the organising team for the recent BUD camp for the scouts in the region.

The rover crew is currently undergoing a rebuilding process and its future is looking brighter. Membership numbers are on the increase and they are working on raising their profile in the community.

The leaders in the district continue to work tirelessly for the youth in the district and others. They run activity bases at the region jamborette, state rally, and scout hike in the southern highlands. The leader numbers continue to rise as more parents see that scouting is a great asset to the youth of today. The ease of the new leader training makes the process easier and quicker.

The Hawkesbury Black Horse Fellowship has brought together a close group of likeminded people with a common interest in scouting. They meet monthly for comradeship and service to the movement. They help out on most major district events including Basic Scout Leadership courses and in raising funds to help support leaders in their work.

The district as a whole continues to grow and thrive due to the commitment of leaders and youth in the district and will continue to grow and prosper. I would

like to thank both the leaders and youth members in the district for helping to make this happen and I look forward to seeing it continue into the future.

Duncan Watts
Acting District Commissioner

HILLS SOUTH

2011 started well for the cubs with attendance at the 4th NSW Cuboree. Hills supplied Cubs and Leaders for 2 packs. Although I did not attend, by all reports, a good time was had by all. Cubs came back exhausted and all the better for the experience.

Overall numbers in the Hills district remain constant with probably a small increase. Leaders are always needed to look after the youth in the district – all groups are constantly trying to recruit new leaders and youth.

Awards – Badge work continues well within the district. Numerous Joeys have completed both their Buddy and Promise badges. Grey Wolf awards to the top achieving cubs are steadily being earned. 2 Queen Scout awards were presented to Venturers at 2nd Baulkham Hills, namely Oscar Sheppard and Robbie Slater. A few Woodbadges were also achieved by the leaders in the district.

The groups continually make good use of scout activity centres and resources – the Radio & Science team and the Water Activities team proving popular year in and out.

The youth continue to get a wide variety of programmes and activities to keep them interested.

We have just had Kellyville Venturer Unit opened at the end of 2011. With 1 leader transferring up from scouts and two leaders in training but unfortunately the Venturer Unit at 4th Castle Hill was officially closed.

At the end of 2011 our DSL resigned and we are currently looking for a replacement.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the leaders in the Hills district for their continued good work over the last 12 months. I cannot praise them highly enough for their effort and commitment so a big BRAVO to all.

Gavan Hall
District Commissioner

HOLROYD

Once again the Scouts of all sections and their Leaders have been out and about in Holroyd, attending and participating, in the many events that are held in Holroyd each year, the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremonies at the Civic Centre and the Holroyd City Fest Parade as well as our own swimming carnival.

This year Holroyd Scouts won the Best Marching Group award at the Holroyd City Fest Parade and were presented with a certificate and a trophy for this achievement, congratulations to those members who took part in this parade.

A special mention must go to Charles (Baggy) Yendle of 3rd Merrylands on his nomination for Citizen of the Year in Holroyd Australia Day Awards.

Congratulations also to James Chapman and Alfred Lee on their Australian Scout Medallions and to Matthew Thompson on his BP Award. To all those other youth members who achieved different levels of badge work, congratulations, keep up the good work.

To the Leaders of this District, thank you for your support for the last year and for the dedication that you give to your youth members, and to those Leaders who received recognition in last years World Scout Day awards, congratulations.

Ron Brown
District Commissioner

PARRAMATTA

In March 2011, I was appointed DC for Parramatta, Parramatta District has moved from strength to strength in the past 12 months. The District Team is developing and we now have 3 District Leaders and a District Rep to Region Executive being:

- Melissa Cahill (Cub Scouts)
- Clinton Stewart (Scouts)
- Chris Lummis (Venturers)

Michael Majoor - District Representative to the Region Executive.

Many of the District's Group Halls have benefitted from the Sustainable Scout Sites grants with the installation of solar hot water services, dual flush toilets and



water efficient tap ware and showers at Northmead, Parramatta, North Rocks, Ermington, Murray Farm and Carlingford halls. In the coming year, these Groups will capitalise on these installations by inviting members of the local community to these halls to participate in an education program to demonstrate how local families can reduce ongoing costs by retrofitting these items. The education program can be used in conjunction with a recruitment program for Joeys, Cubs and Scouts from local schools.

Parramatta Group also used a Commonwealth Building Partnership Grant to install a 2.1 metre steel fence around the property to deter break ins and vandals and Ermington & Northmead combined to win a \$5500 grant from Parramatta Council to run a program teaching youth members how to grow vegetables and look after the less fortunate members of the community by donating the produce they grow to local charities feeding the homeless. Ermington Group has recently been successful with a \$17,000 Community Building Partnership Grant which will pay for the installation of 15 solar panels and refurbish the timber floor. This grant will complete the renovation of this property.

The District has seen the departure of several long term leaders. Rob Drury (Northmead/North Rocks) retired after 10 years of service. Jo Olorenshaw retired from Rydalmere Group after many years. Lorna Hardiman, Cub Scout leader from Winston Hills resigned after 10 years service. Meredith Stewart transferred from Ermington Scouts to the Region Activity Team. Elizabeth Sobolewski, Group Leader Parramatta transferred to Hon. Leader at Parramatta and continues to act as an adviser to the Group. Kym Partridge – LIC Winston Hills retired to build his new business venture.

Robert “Baloo” Hunter, much loved ACSL at Ermington passed away on 19 March 2012 after a short battle with AL amyloidosis/multiple myeloma. He was a mighty leader of adults and children and was respected by all who knew him for his depth of knowledge on the outdoors and many other subjects that caught his interest. He was a passionate father and husband and a friend to all. He will be sadly missed, but fondly remembered by the Parramatta Scouting community.

The District Council welcomed several new Group Leaders in the 2011-2012 year. Ross Gage took on the role of Group Leader at Rydalmere and Mark Richard took on the role of Group Leader – Ermington.

Parramatta District had a bumper year for Queen’s Scouts with Carlingford Group topping the Awards Table with Nicola Rammers, Kristen Bartlett, Daniel Mort and Liam Batchelor all achieving their Queen’s Scout. Mitchell Hayes from North Rocks also completed his Queen’s Scout Award. Angus Boxall from Winston Hills has completed his requirements but is yet to be presented with his award.

The District has joined together on a number of occasions to present positive views of Scouting to the Community. North Rocks Group ran a very successful community open day where leader Quentin Napier ran the State Mobile Climbing wall for Scouts and the Community. Quentin also ran the wall at Youth in Parramatterz and the Dundas Community Fair.

Venturers from Ermington created a joint Venture with Venturers from all over GWS Region to create the GWS Venturer Circus to perform and present Circus Skills Workshops to young people and introduce them to Scouting. The Circus has performed at BUD and YACS and at a number of GWS Group events. The highlight of the year was when the Circus was invited to open National Youth Week in Sydney with Justice Crew, had two days performing at the Easter Show and closed Youth Week at the Youth in Parramatterz Festival. They also performed at the Dundas Community Fair. The Circus members have a number of skills including whip cracking, juggling, baton twirling, poi, plate spinning, unicycle riding, stilt walking, hula hooping, acrobatics, contortion and illusion tricks.

Across the board, 2011-2012 has been an exciting year of growth and development in Parramatta. Parramatta District has partnered with a number of youth agencies in Parramatta to present Youth in Parramatterz and has worked with Dundas Area Youth Service, Karabi, Parramatta Council, Harris Park Community Centre and many others to provide better support for the young people in the District. We look forward to continuing these alliances and building stronger communities where Scouting can grow and develop.

Tracey Hansford
District Commissioner

PENRITH

I was asked to stand in as Acting District Commissioner for Penrith due to the resignation of Rodney Lean. Rod had done a lot of work in rebuilding our District with his focus being on getting the District working together. This has also been my main focus and I am pleased that this is now happening, although it was a bit rough at the start of my term. There were a few times that I needed to rely on other people to help me through some serious situations, and at this point I need to extend a huge thank you to all those people that have helped me when needed, and a special thanks to Kathy Cuneo and Anne Pounder as without these two I would have been lost and fear we would have closed another Group in the District, but now that group, 1st St Marys is running strong and is at the start of a growth cycle.

At 1st Penrith a core group of people were put in place with the aim of hopefully getting the group up and running again, but unfortunately this has not occurred and the group remains in recess.

It is great to see that Emu Plains finally has a place to call home and extensive renovations have taken place at Lapstone, and I am looking forward to their Grand Opening in the coming weeks. This group has also had some ups and downs with the unfortunate decision being made that their Venture Section be put into recess, but they have a healthy group with mostly younger aged members which should enable them to re open the Venturer Unit in the coming Years.

After a layoff of a few years Jota/Joti 2011 was the start of a return to the way the District was in the past, where full District participation was sort and received. At the time Brett Graham had not long been appointed as District Scout Leader and this ensured that the Scout Section in the District started to move in the right direction.

The Joey Section in Penrith District is growing stronger by the day and with the recent appointment of Brian Zarth to District Leader Joey Scouts things are definitely heading in the right direction and the future looks good for our youngest Section.

It has been a pleasure to serve the Penrith District and I will continue to do so for as long as I am needed.

Andrew McLean (Macca)
Acting District Commissioner

ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

The last 12 months have seen a major change in training with the implementation of e-learning.

The Training Team with the support of all PLA's have had a very busy year assisting pre e learning leaders to complete training in both Basic and Advanced levels as well as introducing new leaders to e learning system. Quite a few old system leaders had to be transferred over to the new e learning system so that they could complete their training. This was all made possible by the fantastic support given to them by the entire GWS team.

Courses

With the implementation of e learning, deadlines needed to be met to complete pre e learning training. As a result of this GWS provided a Basic Leadership 2 course and all sections were given the opportunity to complete Basic leadership 3 courses.

A very successful PLA course was also run in the Region. As a result of this course 5 more leaders have joined our PLA team. PLA's are now in a much higher demand due to e learning and as a result GWS took up the challenge to ensure all trainees would have access to supportive and experienced leaders.

PLA's

Regular meetings continued throughout the year with numbers of 20 or more attending. These have been vital in communicating changes to training and receiving feedback from the PLA and their designated trainees. My thanks goes to Aafke for the wonderful job she does with minute taking and allocating PLA's. This was the last of the old training as all new PLA's will require TAE qualifications.

Training Centres

Our team continues to assist training centres as Course leaders, Assessors and presenters.

We are continually seeking new people to assist on courses and opportunities have been provided to another group of leaders in 2011. It is hoped that this will continue in 2012 and 2013.

In 2013 we have been informed that all Basic training will only occur at Glenrock, Camp Kurrajong and Cataract, whilst all Advanced Training will take place only at Pennant Hills.

Introductory Interviews

With the change to e learning introductory interviews also changed. The Introductory Kit cost increased as it now includes Leader Section Handbooks that are required as a resource for e learning modules. A new L8 was also introduced to accommodate the e learning change and office staff also went through a change in procedures. As the year progressed an L9 was also introduced to accommodate appointed leaders needing e learning access.

Changes to Inservice (for auditing purposes) needed supporting evidence from trainees to be submitted for finalisation of training and this ended up being a major hold up for many trainees both on old and new system for appointment.

Resignations

It was with regret I had to accept the resignation of John Hardiman as Blacktown DLT

I would like to thank John for his contribution to scouting and wish him well in his "retirement" from his scouting commitments.

State Position

Frank Barr has taken on a state role for Activities in Bushwalking and we thank Frank for all his work as a DLT in the Mountains and as proxy for Penrith. We wish him well in his new role.

As this is my last report I wish to thank all the many, many people who have been so supportive to me over my 8 years in the role of RC Training. From my ever faithful Region Leaders, DLT's, Trainers and Assessors a very big heartfelt thank you for your friendship and assistance

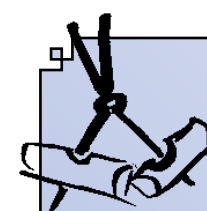
To the many leaders in the region thank you for your smiles and welcomes when I visited to support or present awards

To our wonderful office ladies thank you for your patience and many, many hours of work you assisted with "training paperwork".

It is with great regret I have had to make the decision of standing down from my role but I wish everyone good scouting times with a very dedicated and committed GWS training team.

Ann Pounder

Region Commissioner
(Adult Training & Development)



GWSR 2011-2012 Wood Badge Recipients

Joey Scout Section

Michael Hudson 1st Blaxland
Brian Zarth, 1st South Penrith
Sharon Zarth, 1st South Penrith
Robert Wood, 1st North Mt Druitt

Cub Scout Section

Mark Flavell, 2nd Kings Langley
Gabrielle Thompson, 1st Kellyville

Scout Section

Ken Brodrick, 1st Blaxland
Shaun Leslie, 1st Kellyville
Thomas Bruin, 1st Blaxland
David Roche, 1st Glossodia
Clifford Howard, 1st Granville

Venturer Scout Section

David Mort, 1st Carlingford
Teresa Mort, 1st Carlingford
Aaron Wardle, GWS Region

Rover Scout Section

Gary Rudd, 1st North Mount Druitt

Activities

Bernard Kaltenbacher, GWS Region

Leader of Adults

Lorraine Shaw, Blacktown District
Matthew Thompson, GWS Region

INTERNATIONAL

This year has been a most inspiring year in respect to International Scouting with some events I had the opportunity to be involved in.

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

- Region Jamborette, Bents Basin
- International Showcase Pennant Hills which was an International Elective
- 1st Branch Palaver, Morisset – International Awareness

In addition to the above I was able to attend the following activities:

- On the occasion of Luc Panissod's (Secretary General of World Scouting), visit to Australia, I attended his address to the National Press Club in Canberra and then that night the Arthur Shakespeare Foundation for Scouting, supported by the ACT Branch hosted a dinner for Luc in Canberra both events were impressive.
- 7th Victorian Cuboree at Gilwell Park, Melbourne
- National International Meeting, Canberra (Camp Cottermouth) a very productive weekend. The

GWSR International Static Display was requested as an activity at the 23rd Australian Jamboree, Maryborough 2013 as part of the National International Tent.

In November 2011, I had the opportunity to present a three hour session on International Scouting at Pennant Hills for an Advanced Leader Training Course.

Greater Western Sydney Region had members in attendance at the following International event:

22nd World Scout Jamboree (Sweden)

- Troop Leader - Aaron Wardle, Region Commissioner (Venturers)
- David McKinley, Scout Leader - 1st Kings Langley
- Andrew Whiddon, Scout Leader - 2nd Castle Hill
- Alessandra McLellan, Cub Scout Leader - 2nd Baulkham Hills
- Elise Mackie, 1st Castle Hill
- Michael Mepstead, 1st Dural
- Peter Stockman, 1st Dural
- Daniel McKinley, 1st Kings Langley

We also had a group of Venturers from 2nd Baulkham Hills visit Vanuatu, who gave a terrific presentation at our AGM 2011

- Joanne Tyler, Venturer Leader

- Michael Fry, Assistant Venturer Scout Leader
- Laura Aslin
- Alice Carney
- Lindsay Ferguson
- Taylor McGuinness
- Anna Slater
- Chloe Wilson

A truly memorable visit to Vanuatu was had by all - even attending a dawn service for ANZAC Day in Luganville, floating a wreath out to sea alongside the Australian & New Zealand Consulate Generals and the American Navy.

Three members of 2nd Kings Langley visited Fiji:

- Helmut Joham (SL)
- Nicholas Joham
- Christopher Joham.

Rob Slater, formerly 2nd Baulkham Hills Venturer and now 1st Westmead Rover Crew, has been appointed to the Australian Contingent Team for the 12th New Zealand Venture to be held in Riverton, South Island in January 2013.

We also had Leaders from Hong Kong and the United Kingdom visit during the year.

We assisted in dispatching another shipment of Scout Uniforms & books to Vanuatu during the year.

One of our team members, Martin Shaw was married in April 2011 at Glen Alpine.

I very much appreciate the continued support assistance, commitment and encouragement from members of our team, for without which we would not be able to accomplish so much.

In closing & on behalf of the International Team, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Neville Henderson, Kim Harris and Maggi Roynon for the support and assistance given to us in achieving what we have in our Region on behalf of International Scouting.



Peter Nickl
Region Commissioner
(International)

ACTIVITIES

In this day and age where our youth spend so much time on “artificial electronic games” it is so good that Scouting can still provide the “real thing” when it comes to your more adventurous type activities. This is exactly what the Region Activities Team is all about. It’s getting our youth (and leaders) out, to allow them to experience and learn a new skill.

It’s about getting you to step out of that comfort zone, yet still in a controlled environment, with skilled instructors, to guide you along on your journey of adventure.

We are so fortunate at GWS to have such a wonderful team of experienced and very dedicated leaders, who give up many weekends, and also quite a few weeknights, in providing a range of adrenalin pumping activities.

Our Water Team, led by Tracey Handsford, has carried out numerous Canoe Courses, at various locations, all of which are well supported. For the more adventurous we have also run a number of overnight canoe trips, which are always great fun. While still on the water thanks should be extended to Keith Travers for running a number of Sailing Courses over the school holidays.

Our Rock Team led by Rick Jamison and Fred Kaltenbacherer is always popular, running regular Abseiling courses, along with Rescue (Recovery) Courses, and even Canyon Trips. Special mention also to the team for running the Mobile Climbing Wall at a large number of Scouting and community based functions.



While still part of the Rock Team, we now have a team dedicated to caving, under the guidance of our new Caving Coordinator, Meredith Stewart. Meredith and her team have run a number of very successful caving weekends at both Bungonia and Wee Jasper. A course at Wee Jasper in April saw over 55 participants in attendance, plus leaders.

With the Blue Mountains at our doorstep, bush walking is always popular and we have been privileged to have the services of Frank Barr as our Bush Walking Co-ordinator. Frank has ensured a steady stream of skilled people in Bush Walking, running a number of specialized workshops over the year. Frank’s skills have now been recognized by Branch, with a new Bush Walking Training Appointment; however he will continue to help out with us, where he can.

One of the more unique activities we have at GWS Region is the Radio and Science base, led by our resident Industrial Chemist, John Lahey. This is one of the few activities where you can have Joeys through to Rovers, hands on, all together, at the one activity, and absolutely enthralled with the wonders of science and physics, that John can demonstrate.

The Scout motto is “Be Prepared”. With all activities, part of that preparation is to have skills in First Aid. We are very fortunate to have the services of Allan Mason and Josette Docherty both active in their involvement with St John’s Ambulance. They have been able to provide a number of opportunities to run Senior First Aid courses, along with Remote First Aid. They also kindly offer their services manning the First Aid Post at the Region Jamborette.

To run all these courses does require a fair amount of resources and equipment. While region does have a good amount of equipment, we do need to update,

repair and maintain this gear which does come at a cost. A good part of the fees you pay on courses does go directly to providing the equipment and resources needed. Along with some repair cost associated with some of our sailing craft, we spent over \$4,000.00 on upgrading our abseiling equipment, to ensure a continuation of industry standard equipment. We also upgraded one of our PLB’s with Region now having two registered units for use on those more remote type activities.

As most of you are aware there are some changes in the way Scouting we will be providing training in adventurous activities, which will bring us in line with externally recognized qualifications (SIS10). The other big change is in regard to safety (WHS), not just on the Activities side, but in all facets of Scouting. Hopefully we can embrace these changes, to allow us to continue to do what we already do so well.

In closing can I thank my whole team, the Instructors, Activity Leaders and all those who help out, and especially those who at the same time are still active in their own Groups, as well.

For me, it is an absolute pleasure to be part of such an enthusiastic group of people.

BRAVOOO to all!and as I have said before...

“HAVE ADVENTUROUS FUN AND BE ACTIVITY SAFE!”

Mark Fell (Dingo)
Region Commissioner (Activities)



BUSHWALKING

Many changes have taken place during the past year with Adventurous Activities qualifications in general and Bushwalking in particular. The ‘old’ system was discontinued and replaced by a new Level 1/2/3 qualification from May 2011. GWS organised a conversion day at Bundilla in October 2011. The day was very successful and the following levels were issued:

Details of certificates are:

MIS CODE	LEVEL 1 DAY 534	LEVEL 1 OVER- NIGHT 536	LEVEL 2 537	LEVEL 3 538	TOTAL
SCOUT	77	8	20		105
VENTURER	12	11	33		56
ROVER/ LEADER	12	18	62	14	106
TOTAL	101	37	115	14	267

Unfortunately, things are again changing and we are planning to be fully operational under the SIS-10 qualification system by November this year.



Despite all of the administrative changes, GWS continued with the reputation of being the out and about Region in the State. Bushwalks continued to be conducted in a safe manner. A number of Scout green cord hikes and Venturer expeditions took place within our



Region and concluded in a satisfactory manner. I am aware of several long walks during the year including Katoomba to Mittagong, Kanangra Walls to Katoomba and Katoomba to Jenolan Caves via Jenolan River.

Hopefully, our proper preparation for bushwalking activities will continue to be rewarded in the future with more safe and enjoyable outings.

Frank Barr
Region Bushwalking Activities Coordinator

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

2011 was our 42nd season and it was very successful with many patrons once more claiming it was the best performance they had experienced. The theme of the show was Be Unleashed. We created a further 20 new songs and items written by a wide range of Gang members through our Creative Team.

Another success was the CD recording put down a month before the show. An enhanced audio recording process ensured the choral performance, supported by the orchestra, resulted in one of the best ever CDs that we have produced.

Our season attendance was again down on previous years with only 5100 patrons attending our 10 spectacular performances at Parramatta Riverside Theatre in the July school holidays.

Whilst the performance season was a great success, few would have realised that our 2011 season succeeded despite many handicaps. Our shortage of audition applicants reduced the competition for cast

positions and the perceived need for commitment in attending all rehearsals. The other challenge was finding a suitable rehearsal and construction space. Once again we experienced the yearly frustration of finding suitable warehouses for set construction, set painting and the final rehearsals involving costumes, sets, the monolith and the orchestra. We were fortunate to secure a warehouse from Goodman Fielder at Newington which enabled the final rehearsals to satisfactorily occur.

Our workshop teams continue to visit 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 2012 has the theme The Gang is Back, with the first rehearsal in February 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 when The Gang is Back in July.

The two rehearsal camps have been held and the show is now in the polishing stage heading towards the performance season at Parramatta Riverside Theatre.

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

Lyall Wood
Chairman



ROCK RELATED

Activities in the Region have enjoyed another very satisfactory year.

It has not been possible for the Abseiling team to attend the Scout Jamborette recently since the National Parks have kept us out of the two best sites. The site where we are allowed to go unfortunately has too many loose rocks on it.

Abseil courses have been well attended, and Scout Proficiency Badge courses continue to be very popular. Scout Proficiency Badge courses cover Abseiling, Top-Rope Climbing and Caving. The Caving Badge course, only recently introduced, has proved to be a fantastic success. This is an excellent activity for Scouts, since attendance does not require abseiling qualifications. Our caving team under the guidance of Meredith Stewart is going from strength to strength, and should be highly commended.

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

The gear situation has recently been improved with an injection of new gear being most welcome. We are thankful to Mick Fry and Region for organizing the acquisition of this gear, and we also thank Branch for the donation of some rope that was used on an activity in Sydney.

Our excellent and capable group of Abseil Instructors has again increased in numbers this year. 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.

The new system of Rock qualification (known as Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3) has not proved to be perfect (for example, the qualification for Canyoning

requires expertise in climbing ladders – a very strange requirement). Also the registration of qualifications on the Branch computer does not include the new qualifications. So we are continuing to use the old system as well as the new system – we award people both qualifications (old and new) on successful completion of a course.

It is gratifying that the general level of expertise in Rock activities continues to improve to a significant extent.

Our website beprepared.com.au/gws is still useful although the new region website has been very successful and is taking over many of its functions.

The portable climbing walls are being used to an increasing extent – particularly at the Jamborette. They require a strong towing vehicle as well as qualified Rock personnel. We owe a debt to the leaders who have donated the use of their vehicle and expertise for this purpose

I would also like to express my thanks to the girls at the Bundilla office who are doing a great job in organizing our courses.

Rick Jamieson
Region Rock-Related Activities Coordinator

RADIO, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

This Activity continues to be the most active Activity in the Region, visiting Groups in and around GWS weekly. Where it can be arranged, we program for one section followed by another. This results in a long evening, but only once a week. Our programs continue to be in demand, and we are seeing the maximum number of youth, for the third year in a row.



We continue to refine our existing programs and develop new ones. This year Lillian designed a **new program** about the Heart. Lillian has combined her training as a District Nurse and Cub Leader to demonstrate healthy eating and exercise (pulse rate and Kim's game involving food). The Cub program involves dissecting a lamb's heart, and the Scouts a pig's stomach (an idea from 1st Kings Langley scout Leaders).

Karl continues to be the most important radio asset in the Region, supplying equipment and comms gear for JOTA and other events. This year he expanded his capabilities by studying for and obtaining the **Marine Radio Operators licence**. We maintain a visible presence in the Amateur Radio fraternity by attending the yearly Ham Fest at Wyong and other field days. Karl is a member of the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio group who have recently rented the old Scout hall at Glenbrook. This group actively supports JOTA in the region and this closer relationship opens the possibility for Scouts (and Leaders) to easily earn their Foundation radio licence.

Our base at the GWSR **Jamborette** is always new and different. This year we trialled the new *Heart program*, involving a full size mannequin with removable organs, blue screen *video effects* interactive, a sound base including *optically generated sound* and a *vintage synthesiser*, and a *3D camera* with screen and glasses. In the evening some Scouts returned to try their hand at *light painting* with LED 'pencils'.

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

John Leahy
Region Radio, Science & Technology Coordinator



SCOUT FELLOWSHIPS

BLACK HORSE SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

- April 2011 – Hawkesbury Show - Fund and assist at Scout stand
- 29th May 25 yr Oakville Scouts Reunion – Fellowship all participated
- July 2011 Organised Leaders bushwalk to Crawford's Lookout in Wollemi NP – 10 people attended Aim was to show leaders somewhere new to take youth members.
- Oct JOTA 2011 assisted with activities for day – Grannies Kitchen
- March 2012 Bunnings BBQ's organised to raise funds as we started off year with about \$50. Small surplus due to flooded river.
- March Canoe trip Penrith to Yarramundi Aim: to encourage leaders to use canoes in addition to courses.
- Contributed along with other fellowships to a ¼ share in a Region Fellowship flag.
- Presentation at Youth Leadership Course
- Social Night Dinner every 2nd month at different locations.
- Meeting night every other 2nd Tuesday of the month

Robert McMaster
Chairperson
Black Horse Scout Fellowship

BLUE MOUNTAINS SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

We are a general Scout Fellowship providing support to leaders and groups in the Blue Mountains and Greater Western Sydney Region. Ongoing support is provided to the movement with several members of our Fellowship also holding other Scouting appointments.

During 2012 we plan on focussing our recruitment strategy, especially in trying to engage Rovers who are turning 26.

In 2011, we participated in the following activities/events:

- Springwood Foundation day parade- assist local group with promotion activities.
- AGM held in April with the committee continuing on for another year.
- A range of different ANZAC day services up and down the mountain.
- Assistance with delivering Rover training course
- Assistance with the climbing wall at Region Jamborette
- Supported performances at Gang Show
- Provided catering for Venturer abseiling course
- Investitures
- Prepared and ran a Halloween spook night for a couple of cub packs
- Overnight hike at Shoalhaven gorge

Melissa Harding
Secretary
Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship has maintained its membership at 22 during the past twelve months. Whilst most members are involved in the crew of Cumberland Gang Show, we continually seek to expand our membership base.

August was a very sad time for our Fellowship with the loss of our Vice President and former Treasurer, Sharon Douglass, following a long fight against cancer. Many of our members attended her funeral and continue to support Steve and Laura in their loss. The Fellowship presented them with three roses for planting in their back yard. The name of the roses was most appropriate, Scouts Honour.

As well as participating in the 2011 season of Cumberland Gang Show and conducting the Season reunion at Bundilla in September, we attended the Region Awards Dinner at Blacktown RSL in October and the Region training day in January.

Our social program included barefoot bowling in May with members of Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship, a very successful show recovery dinner at Rosehill Bowling Club in July, an enjoyable food and wine tasting weekend in Mudgee in August, Christmas Dinner and an evening walk through Cumberland State Forest in November, a walk along the Kokoda Track at Rhodes followed by dinner in January and a twilight evening of archery at Sydney Olympic Park in March, again with members of Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship. The outstanding success of our social program is due to the planning and commitment of our social activities organiser Adrian Wilson, ably assisted by his wife Evelyn. We are very appreciative of both their efforts.

Many of our members are also active in other scouting appointments in Groups, Regions and Branch. We have three members on the Executive of the Branch Scout Fellowship Committee. Some members provided support to the Region Jamborette, to Dragon Skin and to the October Agoonoree at Camp Cottermouth, Canberra. Holroyd District members participated in the Holroyd Australia Day Celebrations and Holroyd Festival parade.

This year saw Jenny Wardell recognised in the 2011 World Scout Day Awards.

My special thanks to my fellow members of the executive: Secretary Jeanie and Treasurer Steve. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and have certainly ensured the great success of the past twelve months. I believe our Fellowship will continue to enjoy another exciting year in 2012-2013.

Lyall Wood

Chairperson
Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship

PINNAROO SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

This was once again a busy year, with a great deal of Scouting and non-scouting service performed and social activities enjoyed.

Our non-scouting service activities included Clean-Up Australia and Anzac Day Ceremonies. We hosted a Cancer Council Morning Tea and with the help of

the Venturers was a great success. We again held our yearly grocery collection for Ronald McDonald House, this year we took the opportunity to have a tour of Ronald McDonald House, while we delivered the groceries. This was an interesting and informative exercise.

Service within scouting was given, cooking for the GWS Cub Scout Leadership Courses, for GWS Palaver and The NSW District Leaders Conference. We assisted at the Joey Fun Day, Sydney North Palaver, and GSW Region Awards Dinner with photos as well as sharing our skills at the GWS Cub Baayna running a Map & Compass Base. We also assisted at the International Base at GWS Jamborette. We carried out some minor repairs at Bundilla, transported a photocopier for the training team and obtained a Bar-b-que for the camp. We prepared and served afternoon tea at the Region AGM. We also assisted with the transport of cub equipment to Cataract Scout Park.

Here at Westmead Margaret gave ongoing assistance with the cub pack, worked at a major working bee and attended the AGM. Pam continued as scribe for Region Executive.

With help from other fellowships in the Region we were able to purchase a Fellowship flag to give to the Region.

On a sad note we prepared and served afternoon tea following Andy Walker’s funeral.

It has not been all work. We went Out & About by train to Newcastle, where we enjoyed a great lunch. We attended Cumberland Gang Show. We had a fun and relaxing weekend at Lane Cove National Park, where it was pleasing so many were able to attend. A most decadent weekend was spent at Price Morris Cottage at St. Albans, from which we all came home very refreshed.

We concluded the year with carol singing and gift giving at Southern Cross Aged Care Facility, with some help from the Venturer Unit. This was followed by our own Christmas Party.

Thank you to my fellow office bearers for another wonderful year.

Stephen Shaw

Chairperson
Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship

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 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

Scouts Australia - NSW

Greater Western Sydney Region

6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills NSW 2153

P: (02) 9639 2488 F: (02) 9686 2510 E: gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au

www.greaterwestscouts.com.au