



Scouts Australia - NSW
Greater Western Sydney Region
67th Annual Report
2014



Today's



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

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for new adventure!

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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 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
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
Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship

Greater Western Sydney Region Team 2013-2014

REGION PRESIDENT ----- Alan Overton AM
 REGION CHAIRMAN ----- Geoff McGrath
 REGION TREASURER ----- Paul Thompson
 REGION COMMISSIONER ----- Neville Henderson OAM
 DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER ----- David Stopps
 REGION OFFICE ASSISTANTS ----- Kim Harris & Maggi Roynon

Region Commissioners

RC JOEY SCOUTS ----- Brian Zarth
 RC CUB SCOUTS ----- Anne Thompson
 RC SCOUTS ----- Robin Garrett
 RC VENTURER SCOUTS ----- Aaron Wardle
 RC ROVERS ----- David Twist
 ASST. RC ROVERS ----- Matt Lee
 RC ACTIVITIES ----- Mark Fell
 RC ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT ----- Kathy Cuneo
 RC COMMUNICATIONS & PR ----- Matt Thompson
 RC INTERNATIONAL ----- Peter Nickl
 RC SPECIAL DUTIES ----- Tony Dent

District Commissioners

DC BLACKTOWN ----- Ross Howlett
 DC BLUE MOUNTAINS ----- Tony Dent (Acting)
 DC HAWKESBURY ----- Phil Heinrich
 DC HILLS SOUTH ----- Gavan Hall
 DC HOLROYD ----- Ron Brown
 DC PARRAMATTA ----- Tracey Hansford
 DC PENRITH CITY ----- Tony Dent (Acting)

Region Patrons

Julie Owens MP
 Federal member for Parramatta

Ray Williams MP
 State member for Hawkesbury

Louise Markus MP
 Federal Member for Macquarie

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

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

**Minutes of the 66th Annual General Meeting of the Region Scout Council held at
Bundilla Scout Camp on Sunday 2nd June 2013, commencing at 2.30pm.**

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

APOLOGIES: Read by Jan Playford, Honorary Commissioner and Region Executive member (as recorded in attendance book).

WELCOME: Mr Alan Overton welcomed all those present.

PRESENTATION: By Jai Sloane, 1st/2nd Blacktown Scouts, working for his Scout Medallion, regarding a time capsule to be buried at Bundilla Scout Camp.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting of the Region Council held on Sunday, 24th June, 2012 were circulated in the Annual Report and adopted.

MOVED: Lyall Wood SECONDED: Shahadat Chowdhury

2. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mr Neville Henderson, Region Commissioner

MOVED the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statement

Mr Lyall Wood
Member, State Executive Committee

SECONDED the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statement

Mr David Stopps
Deputy Region Commissioner

ADDRESS BY:

Julie Owens MP, Federal Member for Parramatta and Region Patron
Councillor Ross Grove, Mayor of Holroyd City Council
Councillor Mike Creed Representing Hawkesbury Council
Councillor Shahadat Chowdhury, Parramatta City Council
Councillor Scott Lloyd Representing Parramatta City Council

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 Mr Peter Nickl |

MOVED: Peter Stieme SECONDED: Gavan Hall

4. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF 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 |
| Mrs Melissa Harding | Mrs Pamela Garske | Mr Paul Roach | Mrs Margo Dalziel |
| Mrs Patricia Shaw | Mr Peter Nickl | Mr David Stopps | Mr Mitchell Shaw |

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 REGION COMMISSIONERS OF THE GIRL GUIDES WITHIN GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Mrs Jan Playford | HONORARY COMMISSIONER |
| Mr Peter Nickl | REGION COMMISSIONER INTERNATIONAL |
| Mr David Stopps | DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER |
| Mr Peter Stieme | DELEGATE PINNAROO SCOUT FELLOWSHIP |
| Mrs Melissa Harding | DELEGATE BLUE MOUNTAINS SCOUT FELLOWSHIP |
| Mr Lyall Wood AM RFD | DELEGATE CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW FELLOWSHIP |
| Margo Dalziel | DELEGATE WARATAH ACTIVITY SCOUT FELLOWSHIP |
| Mr Paul Thompson | DELEGATE HOLROYD DISTRICT |
| Mr Michael Majoors | DELEGATE PARRAMATTA DISTRICT |
| Mr Glenn Duncan | DELEGATE PENRITH DISTRICT |
| Mr Harry Anderson | DELEGATE BLACKTOWN DISTRICT |
| Mr Mitchell Shaw | REGION ROVER COUNCIL CHAIRMAN |
| Mrs Patricia Shaw | COMMITTEE MEMBER |
| Mrs Pamela Garske | MINUTES TAKER |

DELEGATES TO NSW STATE COUNCIL

THE REGION COMMISSIONER
 THE REGION PRESIDENT
 THE REGION CHAIRMAN
 MRS JAN PLAYFORD
 MR PETER NICKL

ELECTION OF 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 | Mr Bennett Lansley |
| Treasurer | Mrs Theresa Finch | Human Resources Director | Mrs Jenny Wardell |

MOVED: Col Nicholas **SECONDED:** Shahadat Chowdhury

4. 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 shall be the following night.

MOVED: Geoff McGrath **SECONDED:** Jan Playford

**9. ADDRESS BY Tricia Shaw, NSW Commissioner for Cub Scouts
 PRESENTATION BY TRACEY HANSFORD, District Commissioner for Parramatta
 “Sustainable Scout Sites Project, Education Package, Scouts for Savings”**

Mr. Alan Overton thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm followed by afternoon tea provided by **GUMNUT PATISSERIE AND PREPARED BY PINNAROO SCOUT FELLOWSHIP.**

REGION COMMISSIONER

It gives me great pleasure to present the 67th annual report of Greater Western Sydney Region. This is my fourth report as Region Commissioner.



Our Region consists of 45 groups, 5 Scout Fellowships and 9 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. This year we were able to relocate 1st Hawkesbury group to the renovated Richmond hall which is now excellent accommodation and a better location for the group.

In the past 12 months, with input from the sectional Regional Commissioners, we have been working to fulfil our five year plan and have set up a development team to help groups who need assistance and guidance to increase their numbers in order to remain viable. We are also looking at opening a couple of new sponsored groups once their leaders are fully trained. This is an ongoing program over the next three years.

The Region consists of seven districts, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Hills, Holroyd, Parramatta and Penrith. Tony Dent our Region Commissioner Special Projects is looking after Penrith District as well as Blue Mountains and has made a difference already.

I also had the pleasure to appoint Lorraine Shaw and Brett Williams as Region Advisors working directly under David Stopps to assist groups where and when required. Sandra Parker who has been a long serving leader has been appointed as an Honorary Commissioner in recognition of her service to scouting. I look forward to working with these leaders in the future.

We had a very successful Adult Recognition Awards Presentation at Toongabbie Sports and Bowling Club in November with 206 people attending to see their

friends and peers receive their award. Thanks to Chief Commissioner Doug Menzies, Region President Alan Overton AM, Branch Commissioner Scout Fellowships Jeff Harrison and Deputy Chair of the SEC Lyall Wood AM RFD for presenting awards on the night. We had 71 scouting leaders and supporters nominated for awards in 2013.

It is great to have a good working relationship with Geoff McGrath and his Region Executive. Geoff is probably the hardest working Chairman in scouting and despite a family illness he is always available to assist in any job that is required. Thanks to Alan Overton our Region President and the Region Executive for your support of Geoff and scouting in general and we were lucky to get Paul Thompson on board as our Region Treasurer and it will be great to work with him.

I was surprised to be awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Australia Day Awards for services to youth and community of western Sydney. This award has been dedicated to all the leaders in Greater Western Sydney Region who work so hard for the youth in their various sections.

Whilst many of our leaders were at the Cuboree at Cataract Scout Park we received the sad news that our Blacktown District Joey Scout Leader Charlie "Jock" McLean was called home after a massive heart attack. A memorial service was held for him at Bundilla and 166 people attended to farewell their friend and fellow leader. I was particularly upset as I had known "Jock" for over 25 years and he was a very good friend of all at region. We also lost another hard working leader during the year with the passing of Dr Rick Jamieson and all those who attended a course run by him will be the poorer by his passing. Many of our leaders attended a memorial service for Rick at Bowen Mountain. Rest in Peace both of you.

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, 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 webmaster and to Anne Thompson who does such a wonderful job on the Region Bulletin each month.

REGION CHAIRMAN

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 Kim and Maggi our 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.

As you would know I took three months leave during the year to tour around Australia and David Stopps did a fantastic job looking after the region in my absence and I thank him on behalf of all the region for his support during this period.

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

Neville Henderson OAM
Region Commissioner



Another interesting year for the Region Executive who have been active during the year but it is with sadness we must report the passing of Harry Anderson who was a supporter of scouting for many years and in the past few years the delegate for Blacktown District. Whilst Mitchell Shaw has replaced Harry, we still don't have a representative for Hills and Hawkesbury Districts and also Blackhorse Scout Fellowship.



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 old male toilet block converted to a laundry with some financial assistance from the West Australian Netball Association. Unfortunately we were not successful with grant applications for asbestos removal from the layside shelter and some work to upgrade for disabled access to our toilets in the brick administration block. We will apply again during the next round when the grants open.

I must comment on the 2013 Awards Dinner at Toongabbie Sports Club in November when over 200 people were present to see many of our scouting family receive their Adult Good Service Awards. These events do not just happen and a big thank you goes to our excellent office ladies, Maggi and Kim for their organising skills

On behalf of my wife Christine and myself I thank the members of the Association for their support over the past year during the illness and passing of our son Christopher. We really appreciate your friendship.

Thanks to the Region Executive members for their support and we look forward to an even better year in 2014/2015.

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 2014

| Last Year Actual \$ | | This Year Actual \$ | This Year Budget \$ |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Administration | | |
| | <i>Income</i> | | |
| 2,329 | Saleable Items Income | 2,333 | 2,100 |
| 450 | Donation and Grants | 400 | - |
| 868 | Sundry Income | 1,500 | 1,200 |
| 3,647 | | 4,233 | 3,300 |
| | <i>Expenditure</i> | | |
| 47,692 | Salaries and On Costs | 50,037 | 46,980 |
| 1,244 | Awards, Badges & Scarves | 1,186 | 600 |
| 91 | Computer Expenses | 340 | 360 |
| 2,295 | Depreciation | 673 | 444 |
| - | Equipment Rental | 825 | - |
| 154 | Meeting/Award Dinner Expenses, net of receipts | 339 | 2,400 |
| 1,407 | Postage | 1,590 | 1,200 |
| 1,647 | Printing & Stationery | 1,459 | 1,800 |
| 312 | Repairs & Maintenance | - | 1,500 |
| 398 | Saleable Items Cost | 823 | 660 |
| 340 | Security of Premises | - | 900 |
| 2,000 | Telephone | 2,379 | 1,800 |
| 921 | Sundry Expense | 916 | 1,097 |
| 58,501 | | 60,567 | 59,741 |
| (54,854) | Net Administration Cost | (56,334) | (56,441) |
| (356) | Development & Promotion | (2,011) | (1,935) |
| | Camps & Activity Centres | | |
| (12,018) | Bundilla | (5,624) | (21,906) |
| (12,018) | | (5,624) | (21,906) |
| | Scouting Activities | | |
| (109) | RC Section - Joeyes | 870 | 548 |
| 2,605 | RC Section - Cubs | 3,788 | 1,166 |
| 12,344 | RC Section - Scouts | 7,563 | 6,688 |
| 2,390 | RC Section - Venturers | 1,516 | 406 |
| (121) | RC Section - Rovers | (139) | (136) |
| 7,517 | RC Section - Activities | 2,014 | 3,058 |
| (1,533) | RC Section - Others | (1,327) | (1,280) |
| (240) | International Section | (272) | (272) |
| (4,240) | Gang Show | (17,403) | 6,078 |
| (752) | Districts | (56) | (1,224) |
| 17,861 | | (3,447) | 15,032 |
| 332 | Leader Training | 950 | 1,278 |
| 3,931 | Property | (3,320) | 7,810 |
| (45,104) | Net Region Cost of Operation | (69,787) | (56,162) |

Above summary is an extract from the audited accounts of The Scout Association of Australia, NSW Branch, for the year ended 31st March 2014

Paul Thompson
Treasurer

REGION OFFICE

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

As we write this report we have just finished the applications for Cub Scout Fun Day and the Jamborette forms, around 1500 in all. 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. In future close off dates will be final and no further applications will be accepted.

During the year we obtained a new photocopier/printer when our old one decided that it had done enough work and was ready to go to the retirement village for photocopiers.

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. Bear in mind also that a new member services system will be in operation later this year so your records had best be up to date.

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 our jobs 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.

Kim Harris & Maggi Roynon
Office Assistants



BUNDILLA SCOUT CAMP

It has been another big year at Bundilla with many groups, both scouting and non- scouting conducting camps, funs days, motorhome rally and much more.

There is a lot of interest from outside the scouting movement to use Bundilla as organisations get to learn the virtues of our wonderful facility so close to the city and transport. We even have a school from Griffith who book each year but in the past 12 months they have visited us three times for their various activities.

Our old grey block boy's toilet outside the Peter Waite Room has been converted to a laundry with financial assistance from the Western Australian Netball Association who paid for the washing machines and dryers. This is another amenity we can offer to renters.

The Region Rovers held a service Moot at Bundilla and they completed a number of tasks which needed to be carried out, it was a great help.

This year we will be setting up a Bundilla Committee who will be responsible to identify and arrange for projects to be carried out. If anyone is interested in joining this committee and give valuable assistance please drop me an email or give us a call.

The camp has been used by many groups from our region this year, some for the first time this was a surprise to us. The Guides have also used our facilities on a number of occasions and have booked for a number of weekends in the coming year.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Bundilla Scout Camp in the future.

David & Tracey Stopps
Caretakers
Bundilla Scout Camp



SECTION REPORTS

JOEY SCOUTS

I'd like to start off by congratulating all the Joey Leaders and Youth Helpers for being totally awesome and running fantastic programs for all our Joey Scouts. I also would like to thank the Group Leaders and committees for supporting them. A special congratulations to Julie Overton (1st Greystanes) for being awarded Holroyd Citizen of the Year. Well Deserved! I have to also thank my District Leaders Charlie McLean, Leonie Plummer and Valerie Lockman, plus our State Commissioner Lyn Mann. You have all been fantastic in supporting the Joey Section, I appreciate everything you do. The Joey Scouts and Greater Western Sydney Region is in safe hands with all of you on board.

This scouting year we started off running with the GWS Joey Fun Day "This is Australia". It was a fantastic day with great weather. We had a great turn up with 133 Joeys, 43 Leaders and 19 Parents. We had bases run by each district, cubs, science team, an environment base and the Activities team ran a Flying Fox and Climbing Wall. It was a credit to everyone who helped out. A Special Thank you to the Flying Fox Team, it was definitely the highlight of the day.

This year we ran a special state program called the Mob Hop Challenge. This program required each mob to team up with 2 other mobs in other parts of the state and share programs and local resources. We were a little late off the mark, but so far we have 1 mob awarded with the badges and some others close to finishing. The program does rely on the other mobs being equally as enthusiastic, this can be a challenge in itself.



In 2013 we commenced the planning for our GWS Woonona (Region Mob Holiday) which is to be held at Castle Mountain in Webbs Creek on 27 & 28th September 2014. While it may be a 1 night camp, we do need to program for about 100 Joeys, each with a Parents for those 2 days. It's like planning 2 Joey Fun Days side by side. We are very fortunate to have Bankwest, Outback Steakhouse and Event Technical Support onboard as event sponsors. I look forward to writing next years report to tell you how well it went.

The beginning of 2014 saw the passing of Jock (Charlie McLean) our Blacktown District Joey Scout Leader. Jock was a scouting veteran and it was a great honour to have known him and his family. I will forever remember attending a campfire he ran at Pennant Hills, Jock was in his element, he had all the Joeys, Parents and the leaders engulfed in songs and laughter. We have introduced a new Joey Macot Kangaroo to GWS, named Jock in honour of him, with a little Joey in his pouch named Charlie. Rest in Peace Charlie McLean you are forever in our hearts.

In 2013-14 we focused on managing Joeys at a District Level by running monthly District Wandarah's and a Combined Region Wandarah at the beginning of each school term. The District Wandarah's are definitely building better local social networks between the mobs, while the Region Combined Wandarah is having mixed results. Hopefully by continuing this process some stability will help improve the success of this format.

Over the year we have seen a large number of leaders move on and fortunately a similar number of new leaders come onboard to replace them. We still have concerns about mobs with only 1 leader. This coming year we intend to focus heavily on Joey and leader recruitment. The Joey Section is very transient in nature so it's something we will need to keep an eye on.

In May 2014 we have our State Konara (Joey Leader training conference) with the Theme "Our World", GWS has 34 leaders registered to attend, about 50%. While Konara's have a large training component, they are also a lot of Fun and a great chance to network with other leaders from across the state. They are held every 3 years.

In 2014-15 we are planning on holding District Camp fires, as well as continuing



Promise Challenge 2013-2014

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1st Balcombe Heights | - Bailey Edwards |
| - Anson Liu | 1st Kellyville |
| - Isobel Weekes | - Shannon Battam |
| - Joseph Hartanto | 1st Kings Langley |
| - Claire Jones | - Joshua Green |
| 1st Carlingford | 1st/2nd Merrylands |
| - Michael Ong | - Vanessa Ozols |
| - Serenity Mackres | - Sienna Hansen |
| - Daniel Cook | 1st Oakville |
| - Quinn Stephens | - Cameron Darlington |
| - Benjamin Verco | - Thomas Matthews |
| 2nd Castle Hill | - Blake Mitchell |
| - Ethan Trimmer | - Brayden Allen |
| - Cayden Hawren | 1st Springwood |
| - Kevin Chin | - Blake Alguerno |
| 1st Ermington | - Declan Vane |
| - Clare Cullen | 1st Toongabbie |
| 1st Erskine Park | - Mark Stowell |
| - Benjamin Leary | 1st Winston Hills |
| - Liam Spinks | - Kaitlyn Brush |
| 1st Greystanes | - Laura Douglas |
| - Lachlan Van Der Drift | |
| - Nicholas Walton | |
| - Rory Folwer | |

our Trek-About Badge. Combine this with the GWS Woonona on 27-28th Sept. We also now have Joeys included in the Cumberland Gang Show Comet Cast, so it's a fantastic time to be in Joeys in Greater Western Sydney. Hop Hop Hooray!

Congratulations to all of the Joeys who have achieved their Promise Challenge.

Brian Zarth
Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)

CUB SCOUTS



Since my last Annual Report everyone in the Cub Scout section has been kept very busy with an endless variety of activities and courses.

Once again the Cub Scout section was invited to attend the annual **Region Jamborette** at Bents Basin. The day was well attended, the weather was just perfect and the range of activities on offer was overwhelming. Everyone had a marvellous time and many parents reported that their children were asleep five minutes after departing Bents Basin! Our thanks to Robin Garrett and his team for their hospitality and friendship and congratulations on another successful Jamborette.

On August 25, over 280 uniformed Cubs and Leaders participated in the **Parramatta Ramble**. Following a set of clues and directions, they trekked around historical Parramatta, discovering new places and learning interesting facts about one of our oldest cities. Their presence certainly raised the awareness of Scouting in the community and their behaviour drew some very nice compliments from many people.

To prepare us for the rapidly approaching State Cuboree, three **shakedown camps** were held at Bundilla to enable Pack Coordinators, Leaders, Parent Helpers and Cub Scouts get to know one another, ensure they could work together as a team and check their gear to make sure they had everything they needed for a good and safe camp.

The **5th NSW Cuboree** (Once Upon a Time) was held at Cataract Scout Park from January 6 to 10, 2014. Approximately 550 Cub Scouts and Leaders from all seven Districts in GWSR attended, not to mention the army of uniformed and non-uniformed personnel who volunteered their time to support Cuboree in a huge variety of tasks to ensure the Cubs had a marvellous experience. In conjunction with the Golden West Region, we ran the popular activity base, Wish Upon a Star. So many wonderful people worked tirelessly on the base, that it is impossible to mention them all, without fear of omitting someone. Despite all the hard work and long hours, many members of the team have already indicated they will be available for the next Cuboree!

The twice yearly **Cub Scout Leadership Courses** for our older Cubs continue to be very popular and well



supported by the Cub Scout Leaders. The Cubs really enjoyed the full day course, which runs splendidly thanks to the wonderful games, sessions and activities organised by the Region Seonee team and the delicious food prepared by members of Westmead Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship and the Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship.

The annual **Youth Helpers Course** was held in May for eight enthusiastic young people who are working in Mobs, Packs and Troops, not just in our Region but from Sydney North and the Riverina, assisting Leaders and mentoring youth members. The feedback on the course was very positive, thanks to the well-presented sessions, activities and good food provided by Melissa Harding, Shirley Robinson and Gabie Thompson. Our thanks to Brian Zarth RCJS for also presenting some sessions during the day.

Another successful **Cub Fun Day** was held at Bundilla on the 25th May; 325 Cubs and 74 Cub Scout Leaders took part in the event on a lovely sunny day. There was plenty to see and do – thanks to Mark Fell and his team who ran the Climbing Wall and Flying Fox and my Seonee team who organised some super activity bases for the Cub Scouts to enjoy. Our special guests included Tracey Hansford and members of the GWS Circus Team who did a brilliant job of entertaining the Cubs and teaching them some basic circus skills, while they waited in line for the flying fox. We also had displays and activities set up by the Parramatta SES and State Rail – they were overwhelmed by the variety of activities on offer and the numbers involved and they really appreciated the lunch provided by members of Westmead Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship. Special thanks to Kathy Cuneo, Dave Stopps, Peter and Lesley Tamsett

Grey Wolf Awards 2013-2014



2nd Baulkham Hills

Alexander Fry
Michael Squires

1st/2nd Blacktown

Jack O'Brien
Rhys Astley

1st Blaxland

Keaton Daniels
Caspar Zauner
Reece Vane
Amelia Harding
Rohan Telleman

1st Carlingford

Zaki Razi
Keithrick Ho
Abhinay Subramaniam
Christian Benecke
Jordan Bowden
Holly McDonnell
Robert Burrows
Isaac Protogeros
Monique Chung

1st Castle Hill

Jake Vanderklauw

2nd Castle Hill

Blake Gibbons
Lily Jacobsen

1st Ermington

Bethany Botto
Alison McCredden
Maeve Barber

1st Greystanes

Cienna Dent
Mallee Fowler

1st Hawkesbury

Ian Gaiser
Sebastian Ritzrow

1st Kellyville

Lindsay Bath
Mitchell Dimmock
Cooper Siedentopf
Corbin Ellis

2nd Kings Langley

Ethan Queree

1st/2nd Merrylands

Aiden Caine
Connor Brooks
Natasha Ozols

2nd Northmead

Kai Niskanen

1st Parramatta

Cosmica Donna-Aroon
Thomas Pleffer

1st Riverstone

Daniel Arrowsmith

1st South Penrith

Luke Sherwin
Johnathan Imber
Lucas Chicharro

1st Toongabbie

Olivia Brown
Harrison Frost
Bryce Nekipelov

1st Winston Hills

Mitchell Ashton-Standing

(Blue Mts Scout Fellowship) and Paul Thompson for all their hard work and support on the day. Sincere thanks to all the Cub Scout Leaders who supported the event by bringing their packs along or by assisting on bases – we could not have done it without you.

Congratulations to all forty seven Cub Scouts who have achieved their **Grey Wolf Award** during the past year and well done to the Leaders who helped them achieve this award. The Cubs have put a lot of effort into

creating some excellent resources for use in the Packs when running Jungle Book Programmes or instructing New Chums and it is nice to see these on display when I am invited along to a Grey Wolf Presentation.

District Update:

Unfortunately a few of the valued members of our Region Seonee team have resigned since the last ARP. Region Advisor, Charlene Bordley resigned due to health reasons, Elizabeth Hayes, DLCS Parramatta returned to an ACSL role and most recently, Alison Sullivan DLCS Blacktown resigned to regain her health and spend more quality time with her family. Sincere thanks to all these ladies who have devoted many years to Scouting and ensured the Cub Scouts and their Leaders were well looked after, we will miss them greatly.

- Blue Mountains and Penrith City District - Melissa Harding DLCS
- Hills South District - Gabie Thompson DLCS
- Hawkesbury District - John Aquilina CSL 1st Glossodia and DLCS
- Parramatta District - Virginia Klomp CSL 1st Ermington and Seonee Leader
- Holroyd District - Jeff Hook CSL 1st Westmead and Seonee Leader
- Region Advisor - Shirley Robinson

These wonderful Leaders continue to spend countless hours in the service of Scouting, and I can't thank them enough for all their dedication, hard work, experience, patience, friendship and support.

Special Thanks to Kim and Maggie in our Region Office for their hard work, continued support and friendship; to David Stopps Deputy Region Commissioner for his friendly advice and support; to Bundilla's Caretakers Tracey, Dave and their family for all their assistance with any events held at Bundilla; Tricia Shaw, State Commissioner Cub Scouts, for cooking on Leadership Courses and always visiting our special events; my husband Paul Thompson, who is always on hand to support me in my role, use his wood working skills to create anything I need and help out with an endless array of jobs that need to be done; and finally our Region Commissioner, Neville Henderson for all his support and encouragement, the generous use of Bundilla for our meetings and activities and for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit the Cub Scouts and their Leaders at Region events.

Anne Thompson (Wontoffa)
Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts)

SCOUTS

Due to personal and work commitments our Assistant Region Commissioner Scouts has had to resign so we currently have a vacancy for someone to take up the role as well as someone to take on being a Mentor for the Scout Youth Councils (SYC). We wish Bel all the best for the future.

Preparations for the Australian Jamboree in 2016 have commenced with the NSW Contingent web site now going on line in Patroltent.com. The direct link is <http://www.patroltent.com/PageD.asp?p=163&m=4>. Facebook is already open as well following on from the success of Facebook at the last Jamboree. The registration website is expected to become available before the end of the year. It will again be the same registration system as we have used in the past.

Jamboree for 2014 is going ahead and we expect to have a good turnout of around 900 with extras from out of the Region also joining in. Theme chosen by the Region Scout Youth Council (SYC) is "Pirates of the Greater West" with the badge design chosen from submitted designs by Patrick Sexton of 1st Oakville and the Hills District.

This year we are trialling on line registrations which is basically the same system used for Cuboree and the Jamboree. So far the system is functioning as we expected with a couple of teething issues.

During the year, GWSR Scouts and Leaders took part in a number of activities both in and outside our Region: Scout Hike in the Belanglo State Forest in May; State Rally at Cataract Scout Park in August; and Sirius Cup at Balmoral Beach in March.

As well, we were pleased to see that a number of our Districts continued with their commitment to the Scout Youth Council (SYC) program. SYC is an opportunity for Scouts to be part of the decision making process involved in moulding Scouting to ensure it remains something relevant, contemporary and fulfilling for our youth. Thank you to Gabriela, Nicholas and Cassie – our Region current and outgoing SYC executive – for their focus during the year. We will be holding new elections at the Region Jamboree.





I'd like to recognise and congratulate the Scouts who have been awarded their Adventurer (Green) cords and the Australian Scout Medallion (ASM). As was seen last year, the quality of ASM projects has been remarkable.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Callum Firth | 1st Hawkesbury |
| Jack McCulloch | 1st Hawkesbury |
| Jye Sloan | 1st/2nd Blacktown |
| Andrew Martin | 1st North Rocks |
| David Nelson | 1st North Rocks |
| Daniel Park | 1st Westmead |
| Rachael Lipscombe | 1st/2nd Blacktown |

B-R-A-V-O to you all!

This year we saw the changing of the approval process a little. Now we ask that Scouts work with their leaders, Troop Councils and District Scout Leader in submission of their applications and log. The District Leaders will then submit these to the Region Commissioner (Scouts) who will then give the approval to proceed with a project or approval to award the Medallion. The State Commissioner will only be involved at the Certificate presentation part of the award.

Another change we have had in the ASM is the timing and location for the Certificate. Late last year due to the higher number of Scouts and Venturers receiving ASM's and Queen Scout awards, Government House was simply not big enough to hold everyone, so the Scout section decided to hold our own presentation date and location. The first one was held at Pennant Hills and the second one at Hornsby RSL club. The event included a sit down meal along presentations and a guest speaker. A letter from the Governor was also sent and copied to the recipients. This has proved to be very successful and will continue.

We will be working to encourage more Scouts to attempt the ASM and Green Cord in the coming year.

Thank you to my team of Region and District Leaders who have supported and helped me in the last year.

Robin 'Batman' Garrett
Region Commissioner (Scouts)

VENTURER SCOUTS

The Region has completed another busy year in the Venturer Scout section with a huge number of activities and recording some great achievements.

The past 12 months has seen an amazing result with 14 Queen's Scouts being awarded in the Region – our highest number in nearly two decades!



The Region Jamborette was surprisingly warmer than usual with a good attendance by Venturer Scouts from across the Region. More than a dozen bases were organised by the Venturer Scout section, with volunteers helping out at other Region activities as well. It was also great to see so much positive interaction with the Scout section with several investitures over the weekend and our Sunday evening activity at the rock climbing wall yielding some great results with many Scouts getting to meet members of their local Unit.

RAT SKIN 2013 - Friday the 13th!

Three teams of adult leaders attended Rat Skin in The Golden West Region with one team taking out the coveted first place position yet again now held by GWS for the third consecutive year.

Waratah 2013 – The Amazing Race was another huge success last year with nearly 200 participants competing across Sydney and supported by over 90 adult volunteers.

Teams travelled from Circular Quay on Friday evening via Observatory Hill to Cockatoo Island for Friday night.



Saturday saw participants travel to Woolwich, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Manly Beach, Sydney Olympic Park, Lidcombe and then to Nurragingy Reserve overnight. Our

final day featured the Rooty Hill, Penrith, Glenbrook and Westmead on the way to the finish line at Parramatta Town Hall. Over 30 activities were completed with participants travelling a total distance of more than 300 km using buses, trains and ferries.

All Units in GWS fielded a team during the event including a good number of older Scouts. Teams also attended from NSW Girl Guides and from Hume, South Coast and Tablelands, South Metropolitan, Sydney North, and The Golden West Regions.

The winning team was the Nifty Ninjas from 1st Caringbah.

Special congratulations to Matt Vella (Camp Chief) and his huge team for ensuring the race ran so smoothly.

18 Venturer Scouts and 13 Venturer Scout Leaders attended the 5th NSW Cuboree from our Region. Our volunteers worked on several Mega Bases throughout the Cuboree, as well as in other roles at the Newspaper, Cafe and Sub Camp operations.

4 Venturer Scouts and 2 Venturer Scout Leaders from GWS attended the 1st National School in Adventurous Activities at Cataract Scout Park in January.

Dragon Skin 2014 was held at Newnes State Forest on the Easter long weekend. A total of 92 Venturer Scouts participated in the event from GWS Region with a team from 1st Erskine Park achieving our highest score of 958 finishing in 10th position.



Earlier this year saw Shaun Lesslie become DLVS for Hill South and Matt Vella appointed as Assistant RCVS, who along with Chris Lummis, Steve Wallace and Judy Barr continue to provide invaluable assistance to help me manage the Region.

Thank you to every Adult Leader, Fellowship Member and Youth Member in the Region for joining together for another busy program.

Aaron Wardle

Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts)

ROVERS

The last twelve months have been a whirlwind adventure ... at least for me. Greater Western Sydney Region Rovers have been a hive of activity, and rightly so are seeing the benefits of the last twelve months of Rovering paying off.

The beginning of last year saw the introduction of Matthew Lee as our Assistant Commissioner Rovers. He has been assisting (as the name suggests) David Twist (RC Rovers) in supporting rovers within Greater Western Sydney. As an added benefit, with Matt being on the BPSA support Team, he will help ensure that the region is able to smoothly transition to the new BPSA. He will have the help of David Twist, and myself in doing that. So no pressure.

Our region has been involved in many activities with other sections. We had a greater presence than previous years at the Regional Jamboree, running a dedicated rover base, playing major roles in the Gang Show base, and running site security. In a single event we were able to show rovers in a positive light, and that we were a force to be reckoned with. Just ask the kid who tried to go to the bathroom after curfew. No one is to rest on their laurels, we pulled out all the stops when it came to our motto (FYI it's service) this year, running the inaugural 'Service Moot', and making great contributions to the Bush Fire Recovery efforts with the 'Rover Bush Fire Appeal'. Both efforts were greatly supported within our region, and it's a testament to the Rovers within our region. 1st/2nd Merrylands successfully ran Alice in Wonderland with over 150 people in attendance on the Saturday night. The mad hatter barely had enough seats at the table for everyone.

The coming year brings with some equally as ambitious projects. Castle Hill is running Man Vs Monster Moot. Kings Langley has taken on Branch Moot; a.k.a Mexican Moot; a.k.a the most amazing Branch Moot ever. Break out your Sombreros, and dust of your ponchos, because you're in for a fiesta of a time come the October Long weekend.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate Johnathan Morey on becoming the National Youth Council Chair. He's got big shoes to fill. The Chairmanship is nothing to be taken lightly, but although they don't look like it, his feet will make a snug fit. In the next two years I'm sure he'll do a great job, and have heaps of fun.

Bring on the next twelve months!

Yours in Rovering,

Angus Boxall

Rover - Kings Langley Rovers

Region Rover Council Chairman 2014-15

2013 ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS



SILVER KANGAROO – For Service of an Exceptional Character to Scouting by an Office Bearer

HOOK, Jeff ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Westmead Cub Pack

NATIONAL PRESIDENT’S AWARD – for Eminent Achievement and Meritorious Service

MCGRATH, Geoffrey----- Region Chairman, Greater Western Sydney Region



SILVER EMU – for Sustained and Exceptional Service

STAPLES, Allan ----- Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Scout Troop

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



SILVER KOALA – for Distinguished Service

MORT, David----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Venturer Unit

PLUMMER, Leonie ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Joey Mob



SILVER WATTLE – for Outstanding Service

ALLAN, Mary Jane----- Fellowship Member, Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship

CUNEO, Graham----- President Balcombe Heights Scout Group

KALTENBACHER, Bernard----- Region Leader(Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region

MCLEAN, Adam ----- Region Leader(Adult Trng & Dev), Greater Western Sydney Region

PAGE, Jennifer ----- Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills Cub Pack “Rumbriah”



SILVER ARROWHEAD – for Excellent Service

AVERY, Collette----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Riverstone Venturer Unit

HANSFORD, Tracey ----- District Commissioner, Parramatta District

HANSON, Christopher ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Venturer Unit

KNOX, Sandra ----- Appointed Trainee Leader(V), 1st Ermington Venturer Unit

LEGG, Pauline ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st North Mt Druitt Joey Mob

STEWART, Clinton ----- District Scout Leader, Parramatta District

WITTE, Gerardus ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Blackheath Scout Troop

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT – For Good Service

ALLAN, Rick----- Fellowship Member, Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship

BATH, Andrew ----- Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Scout Troop

BOTTO, Josie ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Joey Mob

BROOKS, Anthony ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Joey Mob

BURKE, Lynette ----- Group Secretary, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s) Scout Group

BURROWS, Noriko----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Cub Pack “Alleena”

CRICHTON, Stephen----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blackheath Cub Pack

DAKKACHE, Louie----- Supporter, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s) Scout Group

DOYLE, Joseph ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Cub Pack “Barloo”

DUNCAN, Glenn----- Group Chairman, 1st St Marys Scout Group

EDWARDS, Janice ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Erskine Park Venturer Unit

EZZY, Allan ----- Supporter Greater Western Sydney Region

FINCH, Theresa ----- Treasurer, Cumberland Gang Show Scout

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| FLORES, Tristan | Scout Leader, 1st Blackheath Scout Troop |
| FRY, Michael | Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills Venturer Unit |
| GIBIAN, Michael | Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Scout Troop "Bartoo" |
| HALL, Bryan | Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Wentworthville Scout Troop |
| HIGGINS, Diane | Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Scout Troop |
| HILLYARD, Jo | Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Cub Pack "Keego" |
| HORNSTRA, Tristan | Venturer Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Venturer Unit |
| HOURD, Tracey | Group Secretary, 1st Castle Hill Scout Group |
| HUDSON, Garry | Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Cub Pack |
| HUTHNANCE, Jennifer | Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Springwood Venturer Unit |
| KALTENBACHER, Therese | Fellowship Member, Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship |
| LANNOY, Michael | Supporter, Greater Western Sydney Region |
| LEE, Lyndall | Supporter, Greater Western Sydney Region |
| MACCORMICK, Jane | Cub Scout Leader, 1st Grose Vale Cub Pack |
| MACKIE, John | Assistant Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Troop |
| MADDOCK, Dean | Joey Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Joey Mob "Taipan" |
| MCLEAN, Alasdair | Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st North Mt Druitt Joey Mob |
| MCLENNAN, Honni | Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blackheath Cub Pack |
| MEREDITH, Darrell | Scout Leader, 1st Dural Scout Troop "Giwang" |
| MOUNTFORD, Alison | Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Scout Troop "Bartoo" |
| MYERS, Elizabeth | Group Chairman, 1st Parramatta Scout Group |
| NELSON, Brian | Assistant Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Scout Troop |
| O'KEEFFE, Warwick | Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Venturer Unit |
| OWEN, Andrew | Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Cub Pack "Kookaburra" |
| PAGE, Taylor | Trainee Leader(Cub Scout), 2nd Baulkham Hills Cub Pack "Rumbriah" |
| PRANTS, Peter | Group Chairman, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Group |
| ROCHE, David | Scout Leader, 1st Glossodia Scout Troop |
| RODRICKS, Brian | Supporter, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Group |
| SHEEHAN, Daniel | Assistant Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Scout Troop |
| SIEDENTOPF, Charles | Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Cub Pack "Zazu" |
| SIRIANNI, Serafina | Associate Leader(Scouts), 1st Dural Scout Troop "Giwang" |
| SOLLOM, Grant | Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Cub Pack "Boronia" |
| STOPPS, David | Deputy Region Commissioner, Greater Western Sydney Region |
| SULLIVAN, Alison | District Cub Scout Leader, Blacktown District |
| SULLIVAN, Jenny | Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Erskine Park Scout Troop |
| THOMPSON, Meagan | Supporter, Greater Western Sydney Region |
| TOWNLEY, Russell | Assistant Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Scout Troop |
| VELLA, Linda | Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Joey Mob |
| WILKINSON, Carolyn | Group Leader, 1st Hazelbrook Scout Group |
| WILSON, Darell | Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Glossodia Venturer Unit |

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%.

ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Last year saw the implementation of many of the new ideas and strategies brought into training and development when Scouts Australia became a Registered Training Organisation.

We have developed the new SIS10 scheme to suit the certificate requirements for Outdoor Recreation. The activity trainers recertified many of the leaders with the SIS10 qualifications. Greater Western Sydney has a number of fully qualified activity leaders and this means we can offer our youth sections a variety of challenging activities. Some of the GWS leaders and venturers took advantage of the Activity Summer School offered in January to gain qualifications. A number gained certificate II and certificate III in Outdoor Recreation. Congratulations to Stuart Cowen and David McKinley for gaining certificate III and Paul Jeffrey, Lachlan Smith and David Nelson for gaining certificate II.

We have scheduled advanced courses for those who wish to develop their skills further and gain a wood badge. At the end of 2013 we were advised that there was to be a change in the qualifications offered for advanced training. All those who had nearly finished their advanced training with the old scheme were hassled and their paperwork was handed in.

Congratulations to Virginia Klomp, Michelle Hose, Ian Lutz, Andre Emery, Joseph Doyle and Sharon Burr for completing and receiving their wood badge.

The new qualifications are now in place and it was pleasing to see sixteen of our leaders at the advanced courses in April. I look forward to presenting their wood badges later in the year.

During the year we had about 150 people logged onto e-learning. This included 91 new leaders, some leaders changing sections and some leaders wanting to do advanced training. During the year we also had 72 leaders complete their training. There are quite a few who just need to hand in the last of their paperwork. Although it is ideal to have leaders complete the training within 12 months, it depends on the timing and availability of weekend residential courses. Interviewing and signing on new leaders is, unfortunately, offset by the number of leaders who resign due to other commitments.

The biggest change for the training team in GWS this year has been the reassigning of the Personal Leader Advisors. Now each PLA is responsible for a particular group, rather than a section across a number of groups. This will make it easier when all leaders are logged onto e-learning. The PLA will be able to monitor progress within the group.

For the work they have done with AT&D this year, I must thank Aafke Fatcher-Hall and Tony Dent who run introductory interviews very efficiently each month. I also need to acknowledge the support and mentoring offered by our PLAs and group leaders who help keep our new leaders focused. They are the first avenue of support for a new leader and I know how invaluable they are.

Kathy Cuneo

Region Commissioner
(Adult Training & Development)

COMMUNICATIONS & PR

This year I saw a number of fantastic articles in local newspapers showing our communities how alive and exciting Scouting is for our youth members. Please keep up the great work! Don't forget to make use of the one free promo pack per year that NSW State Office offer to every group (see advertisement on the NSW State website).

In January 2014, I invited Suzanne Cornell and David Shaw to join the Region Communications Team.

With a strong background in web content management systems and experience with graphic and web design, Suzanne has taken the lead in managing all of our website content - articles, news items and calendar events. Over the past 6 months, Suzanne has been very busy actioning the many requests we get from the District and Region teams to update content on our website.

David is a very motivated and energetic young man, with a great passion for Scouting. David has regularly visited groups in the Region to run Gang Show workshops and has built up some great relationships with our leaders. David will utilise his knowledge and experience while undertaking the tasks associated with

promoting Scouting within GWS, to both internal and external stakeholders.

I welcome both Suzanne and David to the team and wish them all the best in their roles.

I would like to thank our Bulletin Editor, Anne Thompson for all the hard work and many hours she puts into collating articles and publishing our monthly newsletter.

I would like to thank Neville and the Region Team for their continued support and assistance. Have a great year ahead in Scouting.

Matt Thompson
Region Commissioner
(Communications & PR)

INTERNATIONAL

Our Region was involved in various International activities and events.

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

- Region Jamborette, Bents Basin
- 1st Victorian Agoonaree, Riddels Creel, Victoria
- Draco Scout Fellowship, ACT Branch, Canberra
- 5th NSW Cuboree, Cataract Scout Park

In addition Greater Western Sydney Region had members in attendance at the following International events:

- Memorial Service in New Caledonia for Jack Goyen, hosted by Scout Association of New Caledonia, Peter Nickl Region Commissioner International
- 30th Asia Pacific Regional Jamboree Japan. Furquan Chowdhury, 1st Toongabbie and Aaron Wardle Region Commissioner Venturer Scouts
- 18th USA National Jamboree, Aaron Wardle Region Commissioner Venturer Scouts
- 20th New Zealand Jamboree, Fielding North Island. Sue Kebblewhite Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship
- 14th World Scout Moot, Canada

We had leaders from New Zealand and Hong Kong visit during the year.

The continued support, assistance, commitment and encouragement from members of our Team is very much appreciated, for without it we would not have

been able to accomplish so much.

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

Peter Nickl
Region Commissioner (International)

SPECIAL NEEDS SCOUTING



The Special Needs Team continues to answer numerous enquiries from leaders and parents who are seeking support regarding youth members with special needs. The team act as a diverse resource pool of

experience and we have successfully assisted in many situations. How can we help you?

The Special Needs Team is available to run a **Disability Awareness Program** for any group of Leaders. The program is designed to increase disability awareness, raise and discuss relevant issues, and provide leaders with some strategies for supporting and including youth with special needs in the Scouting. We have successfully run the program several times in GWS and look forward to more enquiries. Most recently we ran two 3 hours sessions at the State Konara for Joey Leaders. Both sessions were well attended and resulted in enthusiastic feedback.

The **Special Needs Conference** is held annually at Pennant Hills. Last year several leaders from GWS were able to attend and this year, 26-27th July we expect to further increase numbers. The conference provides an opportunity for us to discuss many of the issues surrounding support for youth with special needs. Topics covered in the past included asthma, diabetes, juvenile arthritis, medications, ADHD, Aspergers and Autism, ideas for programming, and music therapy.

The **Boot Camp Agoonoree** was held from 27-30 September 2013 at the Glenfield Scout Activity Centre

in NSW. Over 170 attended all or part - 125 for at least one night - the majority tent camping. This total included over 50 Scouts and Guides with special needs. Almost 100 were participating in an Agoonoree for the first time!

The **Superheroes Agoonoree** is on Friday 19 to Monday 22 September 2014 at Camp Ku-Ring-Gai. An Agoonoree is a camp open to ALL Scouts and Guides in all Sections, especially Scouts and Guides with special needs. Get your costume ready and come to Agoonoree to support children with disabilities. There is also a Visitor's Day on the Saturday and an offsite activities day to Australiana Pioneer Village in Wilberforce on the Sunday to which all are welcome.

Although we do have a few Scouts Groups in NSW who specifically cater for members with special needs, the majority of youth members with special needs are in mainstream Scout Groups. Also the majority of Scout Groups have youth members with special needs. These youth are supported by many dedicated Leaders. Some have experience supporting people with disabilities but many do not. Scouting can be a more inclusive organisation if we all decide to give children with disabilities an opportunity, support children with special needs to do their best in the award scheme, be willing to make adaptations in programming, seek further knowledge and training, and recognise the potential in every child. Baden Powell said it best:

“The aim of Leaders is to help not merely the promising boys, but also, and more especially, the duller boy”

Baden-Powell, preface to 'Scouting for Boys', 26th ed. 1940

Cassie Rec

Representative for Greater Western Sydney and The Golden West
NSW Scouts Special Needs Team



ACTIVITIES

As I sat down to write this report, I read through again my article from last year. Two people; two dedicated leaders, who I made special mention of at that time, are sadly no longer with us.

November saw the passing Dr Richard Jamieson. While thought I knew Rick pretty well, it wasn't until his memorial Service that I realized just what an incredible person Rick really was. We indeed lost a "mighty" Legend. Then in January we were again saddened at the passing of Charlie (Jock) McLean. Another person who had given so much of his time to Scouting, and particularly with his First Aid Training. My current First Aid Certificate is fully attributed to one of Jock's courses.

Two people who have both given so much to scouting; both called to higher service.

It has been a big 12 months on the Activities front. Even with the challenges of the new SIS10 training, people have remained positive, and are getting out and doing stuff. Yes there has been a fair amount of frustration, and dare I say "warranted criticism" that has been created with the implementation of SIS10.

"Leaders who have been actively involved with activities for years, to be then told they need to requalify!"

However can I say thank you to those leaders who are embracing the new system. I have always said the whole concept of SIS10 in providing external recognition of skills is a great step forward for Scouting. We just need to all have patience in its implementation.

My focus during this changeover has always been on our youth, in ensuring they are not missing out on





opportunities to be involved with some really great adventurous outdoor activities. Huge thank you to my team, who have been so diligent in providing these opportunities, whether under the old or new system (or even a bit of both) they have done so with integrity and enthusiasm, and always with a high level of safety in mind.

Caving has continued to go from strength to strength under the leadership of Meredith Stewart. Caving trips throughout the year to Bungonia and Wee Jasper, along with the lesser known Timor Caves has provided both youth and leaders alike with some great underground experiences.

Abseiling and Top Ropes Course under the skilful guidance of Stuart Cowen, has really made things happen. Stuart has certainly embraced the SIS10 training, attended the Activity School back in January and coming away with a Cert. 3 in Outdoor Activities. A great effort and an invaluable person to have on the team.

While certainly strong at group levels, we have struggled a bit with Water Activities at Region level this last 12 months. A combination of some "unsureness" in regard to SIS10 qualifications, and a period of poor health with Tracey Hansford at the helm has seen not as many Region Water Days run. Even our Region Water Fun day suffered, with a late cancellation due to poor water quality; and then rescheduled in late March, which did turn out to be a terrific day. Round of thanks also to both Keith Travers and Bruce Brigden, who ran another successful 5 day sailing course at Chipping Norton.

We again had the Flying Fox back at the Region Jamborette at Bents Basin. Huge thank you to Quentin Napier for his effort with the Fox. We were also able to run the fox at the Cub Fun day at Bundilla. Quentin

has also been very busy throughout the year running the Mobile climbing wall at numerous scouting and community events.

Also very prominent at the Region Jamborette, and one of the more unique activities within our Region; the Radio & Science Team, run by John Leahy and Karl Humphreys. The main problem here is they have been too successful in the various programs they offer, and really need more leaders/helpers to come on board to be a part of this very dedicated team.

We have also have been able to offer canyoning under the leadership of Ross Smith. Many of you would have read some of Ross's Canyon weekends in the Bulletin. While fairly new on the Region Activities scene, Ross has a wealth of experience in both canyoning and abseiling, and we are so fortunate to have this skill level at our disposal.

There are also people you work behind the scenes on the Activities front which should be acknowledged. Keith Travers our boating guru has been a great support in keeping our boats and sailing craft afloat. Keith has spent many hours down at the Boat shed, repairing and maintaining our watercraft.

We are also very fortunate to have Mick Fry as our SIS10 support person. Mick is highly qualified in a number of outdoor activities and has been able to run and sign off on a number of SIS10 courses. Mick is also a great asset in advising and acquiring the latest in climbing and abseiling equipment and through his business contacts, is able to provide us goods at better than "trade" rates.

As I have said before, I am so appreciative of the skill level and passion that the Activities Team has shown over the year.

To me Adventurous Activities are such a pivotal part of Scouting. It's not just the learning and doing the skill.

It's the **planning**, the **preparation**, the **teamwork**, the **leadership**, the **comraderie**, and simply the **satisfaction** of completing something you have worked for.

And these virtues are not just for our youth members. **...it is exactly the same for every one of us!**

Time to go out and have some more Adventurous FUN!

Mark Fell (Dingo)
Region Commissioner (Activities)

ROCK ACTIVITIES

What a busy and very sad year we have had with the passing of the mighty Rick, this left a big hole. I was asked to take on the role and I believe that with the team of helpers we have, we are doing the very best we can. Abseiling was put on a brief hold but are now back in full swing with a number of instructors receiving their SIS10 qualifications, after attending the first national school in January.

What is SIS10 I hear you ask. SIS10 (SI = service Industry, S = Sport, 10 = 2010) Sport and Recreation Training Package contains 26 national qualifications which have been consolidated from the following superseded Training Packages:

- SRC04 Community Recreation Training Package
- SRF04 Fitness Training Package
- SR003 Outdoor Recreation Training Package
- SRS03 Sport Training Package

All other qualification expired at the start of the scout year and SIS10 is the way forward.

We also looked at the experience of the people on the team and made a small change. The team is: Ross Smith for Canyoning and Meredith Stewart for Caving.

Canyon trips continue to be popular now that Ross is looking after it now and we are going through different canyons which are great to see. Caving trips continue to be popular as well. Thanks to Meredith and her growing team.

I would like to thank the ladies in the office at Bundilla for their help throughout the year.

Stuart Cowen
GWS Rock-Related Activities Co-ordinator

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

2013 was our 44th season and it was very successful with many patrons praising the new type of production and the staging and technical enhancements. The theme of the show was *Believe* – believing in yourself – believing you could do your best – believing you could reach out and grab a star. Based on a variety of popular and gang show songs and sketches, the show was built around a Talent Quest. Eight gifted young scouts and guides vied to gain the most votes to be the Talent Scout.

The show had a new look with a large video screen, many personal head microphones and the orchestra at the back of the stage. This meant the cast were in closer proximity to the audience on the thrust stage.

We continued to be successful with the CD recording put down a month before the show with its enhanced audio. Once again this ensured the choral performance, supported by the orchestra, resulted in a great CD.

We changed our performance schedule so that Red Scarf night was on the first Friday night, an additional matinee was introduced on the Sunday afternoon and we had one less mid-week performance.

Whilst the Sunday matinee was a very popular initiative, our season attendance continued to be down on previous years with only 4000 patrons attending our 8 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 2013 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. Several key members of the marketing team moved interstate and overseas for work commitments. Once again we experienced the yearly frustration of finding suitable warehouses for set construction, set painting and the final rehearsals involving costumes, sets, the stage boxes and the orchestra. We were fortunate to secure a warehouse at Rydalmere which enabled the final rehearsals to occur satisfactorily.

The 2014 show has taken all the best new things from last year and added further exciting initiatives. The theme is *Imagine* and has a great mix of new and old original material and commercial songs. We have introduced a brand new Comet Cast to complement the traditional cast. The Comet Cast has 40 young 7 to 9 year old joey scouts, cub scouts and the guiding equivalent performing in the first act. The second act includes a performance from the regional circus team.

We have also restored a Saturday morning matinee on each Saturday. We are selling all the stalls seats before opening higher seating areas and conducting all the ticket sales through the theatre box office. Heavy marketing has been directed towards scouting leaders and scouting sections. Our sponsorship has risen dramatically including Parramatta Leagues Club as our first platinum level sponsor.

The show maintains its mission to engender self confidence in all the Gang through the medium of performing arts. We are rehearsing this year at Crestwood High School and the first rehearsal 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 *Imagine* goes on stage in July.

The two rehearsal camps have been most successful and the show is now in the polishing stage heading towards the 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

RADIO, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Our reduced ability (due to lack of presenters) to meet the demand for our activity meant that we saw only 700 youth on week night visits this year. We also put on bases for Joey and Cub Fun days, the Scout Jamborette at Bents Basin, and the yearly international JOTA weekend.

Karl is updating a **training manual** that he has been compiling for the last couple of years titled "Radio for Scouting" and hopes to have it available for Scouts and Leaders this year.

He continues to augment his equipment and has this year obtained more hand held to-way radios, a Tactical Rapid Deployment repeater and Satellite Communication equipment. These will allow greater safety and educational opportunities for youth members. Some Groups have already borrowed his Spot trackers to enhance their safety, including a Green Cord Hike, with good results.

Karl maintains his presence with the Amateur Radio community by attending 'Field Days' and his membership of the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club, advising them of Scout matters and assuring GWS of an enthusiastic group of operators for our JOTA weekend.

Our base at the GWSR **Jamborette** this year featured ARP2600 and Roland Music Synthesizers, and a



'musical' Theremin; a QR code quiz and Augmented Reality game using a tablet, and a robot demonstration involving Lego mindset, a robot arm and humanoid figures.

This year we ventured outside the Region, taking science demonstrations to **Tamworth Scouts** for a Water Rocket & Chemistry night in May and to the **Powerhouse Museum**, Harris Street in November for the first Maker Faire in Sydney. Coincidentally the Scout Leader from Tamworth was also at the Faire, demonstrating his group's Near Space experiments using high altitude Helium balloons.

I will **retire from CSIRO** before the end of this year and will not have access to the amazing range of facilities and advice that I have depended on to drive this activity. Also working at one end of the GWS Region and living at the other meant that most Groups were 'on my way home', and I didn't have to make an extra trip to run the activity.

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

John Leahy
Region Radio, Science & Technology Coordinator

DISTRICT REPORTS

BLACKTOWN

2013 started out with two busloads of Scouts travelling to Maryborough in Queensland for the Australian Jamboree. We were lucky to have great fun, adventure and weather and were home before the floods which devastated the area.

There were many District activities held during the year in particular the regular attendance at the annual ANZAC day services, with 1st Toongabbie attending the Dawn Service in Canberra. In May the Blacktown City Festival where we had over 100 youth and leaders from all sections participate in the street march through Blacktown. The District also had many members participate in the Cumberland Gang Show which was at the Riverside Theatres, Parramatta in July.

The Joey's enjoyed a flying Day at Camden in July and many other activities across the region during the year.

Cubs enjoyed many activities which included their annual Billy Cart Derby which is held on the Rooty Hill bringing fear and excitement as they tried out their Billy Carts on the downhill run. The year for the Cubs ended with great expectations as they attended shakedown camps in preparation for the Cuboree held in January 2014.

Regular activities which the Scouts participated in were ScoutHike at Wingello State Forest in May, the Region Jamborette at Bents Basin in June and a Leadership Course in August. During the year Furquan Chowdhury from 1st Toongabbie attended the Asia Pacific Jamboree in Japan and congratulations to Jye Sloan from 1st Blacktown on achieving his Australian Scout Medallion Award.

The Venturers decided that they would have a theme of "A District United" for 2013 which was aimed at getting the units to work together. The Units participated in Dragon Skin over the Easter weekend, a Masterchef Challenge in July and enjoyed the Waratah in November which saw them travelling by public transport in "The Amazing Race". Mitchell Howlett was awarded the Mawson Scholarship for Leadership.

Our District Rovers participated in many activities on a weekly basis. These included ice blocking, bowling, inter crew activities, many moots, world moot, surf moot, WAM, and smaller region run moots in between. The

crew also helped out with service activities including GWS region's service moot which was purely service at Bundilla and ran a base a dragon skin for the Venturers.

The district was saddened with the passing of Harry Anderson our District Representative on the Region Executive a stalwart from 1st North Mt Druitt Scout Group and Charlie (Jock) McLean our District Joey Leader, we miss them both.

I would like to thank the District Leaders/Representatives and Group Leaders for their hard work and support during the year.

Ross Howlett
District Commissioner

BLUE MOUNTAINS

2013 was eventful year with various activities across the whole district, many of the Groups got very involved with their local communities, participating in Fares, Fetes and Community Festivals.

There was Foundation Day at Springwood, Explorers reenactment staying at Hazelbrook, Pioneers walk at Blaxland to name a few, and every Group attended an ANZAC day.

The District became National News when the Bushfires became so bad that there was a loss of nearly 200 homes, and then when this tragedy was happening the GWS Rovers and the Groups of the District got involved with helping those who had lost their homes, and a Visitor from Western Australia came to give words of support and brought gifts from her own district.

What a surprise when there was so much happening that we still had Venturers being awarded their Queen's Scout awards, and there were Leaders recognized for their service to Scouting, nothing really stops scouting from being so strong in this District.

I happy to say that with the new SIS10 activity qualifications coming in that many of the Leaders have gone out and qualified in bushwalking, during January some went and participated in the Adventurous Activity School, achieving qualifications in Water Activities, Rock Climbing, Abseiling etc.

It was also a credit to the District when there was District Cub Pack Holiday, District Scout Camp, Venturers at Dragon Skin, Rovers attending various Moots.

The District sent 1 and half packs to the NSW Cuboree in January, all the Cubs had a fantastic time and many are already wanting to go to the next Jamboree.

Overall the Blue Mountains has remained Strong and is showing that nothing stops the good scouting that we achieve.

Tony Dent
Acting District Commissioner

HAWKESBURY

Generally the District is stable in numbers, but could always take more. Within the four (4) groups, including 1st Glossodia, 1st Grose Vale, 1st Hawkesbury, and 1st Oakville, there are a total of one (1) Joey Mob, four (4) Cub Packs, four (4) Scout Troops, and two (2) Venture Units, a growing Rover Crew and the Black Horse Fellowship.

Started off the year celebrating Founders day at Macquarie park where we held a raft building contest and held the inaugural raft race.

St George's Day was very well represented by all sections and there was standing room only at the St Andrews Church in Richmond. We were lucky enough to have Chaplain Allan Williams from the RAAF base attend and give a reading.

ANZAC Day and Dawn Service was well represented by the District, with the Hawkesbury River Rovers attending the march in Sydney.

A great Scout promotions tent was set up at the Hawkesbury show where we won first prize for the best commercial stand. We also participated in the Grand Parade.

Joeys continues to grow at Oakville where the Mob saw three (3) promise Badges awarded this year.

Cubs are continuing to grow with over 75 Cubs though out the District.

Cub day at Jamborette was well represented and all those that went enjoyed many activities especially the flying fox and canoes.

They also attended Region cub day was held at Parramatta (Parramatta ramble).

The Cubs visited Bradleys Head for our out and about badge. There were around 70 cubs and leaders attend.

There, they learnt a little bit about Naval History and heard about the first Australian battle in the Pacific Ocean. They even went exploring finding an old Cannon and underground magazine and accommodation. It was a full on day and they all looked forward to the train ride home.

The highlight for the Cubs was Cuboree

The Cubs were that well represented at the Cuboree that District had to split to form Hawkesbury District whilst 1st Hawkesbury Cub joined Penrith district. There was a good representation of Leaders not only as line leaders but also as Site and Services.

Although it was many Cubs first time away from Mum and Dad, they had excellent time, four days of full on activities. There was no chance for the cubs to get bored. They were constantly on the go. Lights out was no problem the cubs were exhausted and the bus trip home was very quiet.

The Scout section had a fantastic time attending: Scout Hike, District Rally, Jamborette, State Rally, and thank you to 1st Glossodia for hosting JOTA / JOTI.

Congratulations goes to Callum Firth and Jack McCulloch, both from 1st Hawkesbury, who achieved their Scout Medalions.

The Scout also enjoyed other activities including Caving and Surf Camp.

The Venturers carried out many activities throughout the year, including Dragon Skin and Waratah where 1st Oakville Venturers played a huge part in catering.

The Venturers also saw a presentation of the Queen's Scout awards, congratulations Patrick Watts.

Hawkesbury River Rovers saw a change to the crew with the booting of old members and new members signing up. The rovers have organised and participated in many activities throughout the year which included the attendance of several Moots, Dragon skin, Waratah. The Rovers organised a very successful Christmas in July where they raised much needed funds.

Each Group this year received a grant of various amounts which will see renovations / extensions commence to improve the Halls.

1st Grose Vale were able to replace the Asbestos roof with a new Colorbond Roof, 1st Glossodia carried out minor repairs, 1st Oakville received a fantastic storage shed, and the renovations to the old 2nd Richmond Scout Hall will see the new home to 1st Hawkesbury from 2014.

I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to all the Leaders and Parent Support Groups for the hard work they do to ensure scouting life is enjoyable and fun for the youth members. I would also like to thank the parents of the district for their efforts when called upon to help out especially at fund raisers.

I look forward to the next 12 months, working together with the Leaders, Parent Support Groups, and Parents to make Scouting attractive to all.

Phil Heinrich
District Commissioner

HILLS SOUTH

2013 saw scouting in the Hills start of with a bang. We had approximately 60 scouts and 17 leaders attend the 23rd Australian Jamboree in Maryborough, Queensland. A good time was had by all.

Numbers in the youth sections have fallen slightly during the year but signs were showing in the last term that they should start to pick up early in the new year.

Joey's continue to have lots of fun with our DJSL Valerie Lockman providing support to our JSL's and mobs. We have had a few Buddy and Promise badges presented and a great time was had by all at the Joey Fun Day. A big Hop, Hop, Hop to our Joey leaders for their time and programming.

Cubs continue to thrive and enjoy themselves under the guidance of our DCSL, Gabie Thompson. We had 7 Grey Wolf awards presented in the year. Cub Fun Day at the Jamborette was well represented. All cub packs have been enjoying a very wide range of activities and busy programmes over the last twelve months thanks to the experience and enthusiasm of all leaders, old and new culminating in the shakedown camps for the upcoming Cuboree. A big 1, 2, 3 Woof to all.

Scouts as mentioned earlier started the year off at Maryborough in Queensland. A thank you to all that attended. After being Mindari leader for the first few months of the year, a new DSL was appointed. Ian Shield, previously from 1st Winston Hills with many years of experience, took over the role after the Region Jamborette. The scout section had the first leadership course after a break of a few years and are planning a few District activities for 2014. No Green Cords or Scout Medallions were presented in 2013 but a few Blue Cords were presented. As a side, at least one of the

Jamborette Gateway awards was presented to a Hills Troop so a big BRAVO for continuing this tradition and hope it continues in 2014. The scouts are experiencing a wide range of activities which are challenging to the scouts thanks to their leaders and the scouts own ideas. The SYC instituted in this year has been instrumental in communicating ideas and information through the youth members to the troop with guidance from our DSL and troop leaders. Lastly for scouts, I would like to give a big BRAVO to all our scout leaders for their effort over 2013.

2013 saw the awarding of 5 Queen's Scout Awards in the district, they are, Anna Slater, Alice Carney, Jordan Longmuir, Anton Harris & Danielle Barnett so a big BRAVO to these 5 young men & women. Our DVL, Chris Lummis continues to give guidance to our units as does our RC Venturers, Aaron Wardle. A big BRAVO to our Venturer leaders for their guidance, patience and support to the Venturers.

Leader numbers are lower than we like but we are still getting new leaders who are filled with enthusiasm and if our leader numbers rise, I think our youth numbers may rise as well.

The groups continue to support District, Region, State and National events including ANZAC Day local marches and ceremonies, Jamborettes, Jamborees, Cuborees, Scout Hikes, Sate Rally and Dragonskin.

Again I'd like to thank the leaders who give up their valuable time and volunteer to provide the youth in the district with a great scouting experience. Your effort does not go unnoticed by myself, my team and the youth of the district or their parents and families. Thanking also the families of the Leaders for allowing them to make it worthwhile, exciting and challenging for the youth in the District.

There was 1 Woodbadge awarded in the District in 2013 to Gavan Hall (DC) with his LOA Woodbadge.

Gavan Hall
District Commissioner



HOLROYD

Congratulations must go to two Leaders in Holroyd namely Charles Yendle and Julie Overton, both these leaders were nominated for "Citizen of the Year" of Holroyd City on Australia Day.

Julie Overton was awarded this prestigious accolade.

That these two people were nominated by their peers shows not only the high regard that they hold within the Scouting Movement but also within the Holroyd Community.

Holroyd District Scouts participated in the many events at Holroyd during the year, namely Australia Day at the Citizenship Ceremony raising the Australian Flags and again at Merrylands Oval raising the Australian Flag for the commencement of the activities and lowering the Flag prior to the fireworks as well as conducting recruitment stall on the day.

Once again congratulations to all those youth members who achieved excellence in their badge work, there were numerous, Grey Wolves, Australian Scout Medallions and Queen's Scout Awards presented through the year.

Bravooo

Again, many thanks to all the Leaders for your continued support, not only your individual Groups, but also to the youth members of Holroyd.

To those Leaders who received recognition in the World Scout Day Awards, again Bravooo.

Ron Brown
District Commissioner

PARRAMATTA

Winston Hills

Winston Hills remains a strong and active Group in the District and again in 2013-2014 it's been another busy year for the group with October fest in the local Lions park, Spring Fairs at local Schools, a Group Fun Day for an end of year celebration, Australia Day Flag raising, Relay for Life and District swimming carnival just to name a few of the group activities.

Congratulations to the following youth Members for achieving their highest Sectional Award.



Joeys - Two Joey Scouts have obtained the Joey Promise Challenge badge Laura Douglass and Kaitlyn Brush

Cubs – Cub Scout, Mitchell Ashton-Standring, was awarded the Grey Wolf Award

Scouts – Sienna Archer was awarded her Green Cord and also fulfilled the requirements to be awarded the Australian Scout Medallion

Venturers – Jordan Fenech achieved the Queen's Scout Award.

Wentworthville

Wentworthville is the mouse that roared in a true Scouting sense. Over the past few years, Wenty has struggled to maintain number is the Scout Troop and has run fairly close to the wind struggling to stay open. 2013-2014 saw the return of females to the group with one Scout transferring from Ermington to Wenty. This was a great step forward for Wenty as the parents have brought enthusiasm and helped to re-invigorate the parent support committee with some new blood. For a tiny group, this group is amazing!

With only 7 Scouts, Wenty did some amazing things, including fundraising and donating \$2000 to Special Needs Scouting and \$2000 to Scouting victims of the Philippines Typhoon. They also won the Parramatta District Swimming Carnival with 100% of their troop participating !

April 2013 Scout Market Day, April 2013 donation \$2000 Scouts with special needs, June 2013 GWS Jamborette, July 2013 Participated in and visited Cumberland Gang Show, August 2013 Nite Stalk (spotting animals at night), Sept 2013 District Comp Camp, October 2013 Construction Night, October 2013 Bike Ride, October 2013 Scout Market Day, November 2013 District Raft Race, November 2013 donation Scouting victims of the

Philippines typhoon disaster US\$1800 (approx. \$2000 AU equivalent) , November 2013 Beach Weekend trip, Feb 2014 Won Parramatta District Swimming Carnival.

Wenty is planning to run some development activities for the group with the support of the DRC David Stopps and the DC. Hopefully, these activities will bring more young people to Scouting in the district.

Rydalmere

Rydalmere is also starting to turn around after a big drop in numbers earlier this year. The girls (yes, the entire troop are girls) enjoyed a Blue Cord hike on the Hawkesbury River recently. I will be doing a Scout Presentation at the local School early in Term 3 to see if we can bring some more cubs into the group. Rydalmere are also considering starting a Joey Mob.

Parramatta

Another success story in the District is Parramatta Scout Group. With the introduction of Joeys last year, the group has gone from strength to strength and improved numbers substantially. The Scout program is in evidence at all levels in this mid-sized group and the retention rate is very good with some Scouts moving up to Venturers at North Rocks this year. Parramatta's challenges still lie with leaders, with difficulties in recruiting new leaders from a small parent group. The Scout Troop and Joey Mob are particularly active and engage with many other sections in the District. The Cub pack offers a great in hall program but with a lack of young, fit leaders in the section, the outdoor program suffers.

North Rocks

North Rocks Group is a strong and vibrant Scout Group that attends most District and Region Activities and has a particular interest in Rockcraft. The leaders are committed to quality Scouting and the youth members are exposed to solid Scouting programs in the Group. In 2013-2014, the Venturer unit has had a strong resurgence and now sits with 11 Venturers. The Venturer leaders have signalled their upcoming retirement and the Scout leaders will be moving up to Venturers to assist. The Scout Troop has suffered this year with leaders and the Scouts have been on restricted activities until new Scout leaders can be recruited. The group has done some work on the hall to replace lights with energy efficient lighting to try to control electricity costs.

Northmead

With only a Cub Pack and Scout Troop, Northmead is one of the smaller groups in the district. The trainee Group Leader has done some good work at the local primary school in the latter part of 2013 and hopefully this will result in more children trying Cubs and Scouts. Owen Manson has signalled his desire to retire after 30 years as the Group Leader. The Scout troop is down to 5 male members and the Group Committee is keen to see the troop take on more members. With 3 leaders in training in the Group, there is sufficient new blood to encourage some new children.

Murray Farm

Murray Farm suffered a significant upheaval at the beginning of the year with the retirement of the Group Manager and the Cub Leader. Due to a miscommunication, the cub pack was moved to another Group which had a fairly deleterious impact on the Group. Six months down the track, things are on the up and up for this Group, with the recruitment of Jess McGlynn, a former Rover from Cairns, QLD into the Group as the Cub Leader. With Nils Henriksson close to completing his training as ACSL, the Cub section is starting to look good. Many thanks to the District Seonee Leaders for supporting this cub pack on a roster basis whilst the new leaders are trained. The new leaders have the added benefit of seeing some of the district's best leaders in action. Leonie Plummer, the DJSL, has been remarkably supportive of this group and has called for expressions of interest at the local school, with a view to starting a Joey mob in 2014. I think 2015 will be the year for Murray Farm to shine again.

Ermington

The year started with a bang for Ermington with their 60th anniversary celebration and the presentation of the group's first Queen's Scout Award to Mitchell Hodgson. Unfortunately, Ermington's fortunes have not been as good throughout the year, with numbers declining from the heady highs of the previous year with 125 members down to the current 88 members. This is in part due to the Venturer unit losing over 20 members with most of the unit members turning 18 within a few months. There are 3 Venturers left at Ermington, so the unit is currently meeting with Kellyville until the current scouts are old enough to go to Venturers. Unfortunately a number of eligible Scouts have moved on to North Rocks Venturer unit due to the uncertainty of the Ermington Unit. Hopefully in 18 months or so, there will be a new crop of Scouts wanting to move up to Ermington Venturers.

Carlingford

The star group of the District this year! There have been so many successes with the Grey Wolf Award and Joey Promise Challenge that they are too numerous to list. Carlingford has increased its membership by over 17% in the past 12 months and the Scout program is running “to the max” with enthusiastic leaders, youth and parents supporting this group. Congratulations to Skipper for growing the group and giving all the other groups in the district the standard to chase! 109 members.



Circus

The GWS Circus is based at Bundilla, so I include it in this report as part of Parramatta. The Circus has grown and has again been awarded a \$5000 grant by Parramatta Council to expand our horizons with aerials and acrobatics. A number of Venturers have joined the group this year and are working on their badgework through Circus. In January 2014, Cirque du Scout appeared on National TV as part of the Cuboree Weather presentation and ran an activity and workshops as part of the Wish Upon a Star GWS base. The members performed over 40 live performances and workshops during Cuboree. The Circus will be performing with the Cumberland Gang Show this year.

Tracey Hansford
District Commissioner

PENRITH

This past year has been a year of commitment, with many of the Groups having some major changes in their Leaders, we lost some of the long time leaders, but also enlisted a lot of New enthusiastic Leaders to replace them,

The Groups have been involved in Community Fares, Fetes and Festivals and we also covered all the Anzac Day marches from St Marys all the way to Warragamba. This year has also seen some acknowledgement from the Community to what scouting has done for them.

There was a combine District Cub Pack Holiday and District Scout Camp, where they all had an opportunity to participate in JOTI/JOTA, with over 200 at camp it was a great challenge for all, and was a great achievement.

There was 2 Cuboree packs from the District attend the NSW Cuboree in January, and they all had a wonderful time, and I would like to thank all the Parents who went as helpers, without them the leaders would have had to work a lot harder.

Venturers have achieved 2 Queen’s Scouts this year, and they have had many activities and opportunities to achieve activity qualifications, to this there were some Venturers and Leaders attend the Adventurous Activity School in January, and now the District has well qualified Leaders in Bushwalking, Water Activities, Rock Climbing, and Abseiling

All of the Groups have done a wonderful job of community involvement, and this has blossomed into the Groups being invited to various activities.

We are also working to Create, the Penrith Panthers proposed that in their new development that Scouts be onboard by having a Scout Hall built in the new facility and that we will then be more involved with the community through this opportunity, the District is looking forward to this becoming a reality.

Tony Dent
Acting District Commissioner



SCOUT FELLOWSHIPS

BLUE MOUNTAINS

I am pleased to present my annual report of Fellowship activities. The year in review has been very active with a balance of enjoyable service and social activities carried out by our Fellowship group members. The activities concerned are as follows:-

Meetings – 1 AGM & 4 General Meetings

Service activities included:

- Glenbrook RSL Anzac Day march & ceremony
- Assisted 1st Hazelbrook with activity for the Blue Mountains Crossing re-enactment celebration.
- Cub Day at the Scout Jamborette
- Cooking roster for Cub Scout Leadership Course at Bundilla
- Conducted Cub Scout Halloween programme for 1st Hazelbrook
- JOTA at Badgerys Creek
- Adult recognition Awards Night
- Cub Scout Badge testing at 1st Springwood
- Cuboree

Social activities included:

- Ten Pin Bowling at Penrith
- Christmas in July Dinner
- Gang Show at Riverside Theatre Parramatta
- Trivia night
- BBQ Tench Reserve on the river at Penrith

Unfortunately a planned bushwalk in the Blue Mountains had to be cancelled due to bush fires in the area.

A highlight of our year was the awarding of Adult recognition awards to several of the Fellowship members. The awards are:

- Silver Wattle – Mary Jane Allen – Bernard & Therese Kaltenbacher
- Certificate of Merit – Rick Allen

It was good to be able to support our awardees at the Awards Dinner in November and I congratulate them all for their deserved achievement.

Membership

Our membership decreased during the year from 11 to 10 members. Recently one member has transferred back into the group and this transfer is in progress. A development programme has been established and recently three prospective members have been approached to join.

The Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship is a group of enthusiastic, committed people who are a pleasure to work with as evidenced by the programme presented above and I thank them all for their support throughout the year.

I have been privileged to serve the Fellowship this year and look forward to serving as Leader in Charge for the next year.

Richard Mason
Chairperson
Blue Mountains
Scout Fellowship



PARRAMATTA

We have had our usual busy year performing service within and outside Scouting and then topping the year off with some wonderful social activities.

We had members attend the New Zealand Scout Jamboree, while others gave service at the NSW Cuboree – setting up for cub scouts, transporting equipment, assisting at the souvenir shop, and working on the International activity base. We also had other members attend in their leadership positions.

Our catering skills were used at the Region Cub Scout Leadership Course and at the Region Leaders Day. We prepared afternoon tea at the Region AGM. By far our busiest weekend was catering lunches for the Venturers “Waratah”. We assisted at the Region Jamborette, ran a base at the Bootcamp Agoonaree, and attended the Cub Badgorama in Canberra. We assisted with a stocktake at Cataract Scout Park and removed waste paper at Bundilla.

Other Scouting service includes arranging mowing the grounds at 3rd Greystanes, maintenance at 1st Mays Hill Hall, assembling of Grey Wolf woggles for state. We held a mufti night for World Scout Dollar Day. Our members also assist at Region Executive and at 1st Westmead Cub Scouts.

Outside Scouting we again made gifts and entertained

the residents at Southern Cross Nursing Home. We collected groceries for Ronald McDonald House and acted as collectors for Red Shield Appeal. Towelling was also donated for sewing items for Vanuatu, Christmas gifts were collected for Samaritans Purse and a cash donation was made to Red Cross Typhoon Haiyan Appeal.

Fellowship members attended Anzac Day events at Camden and at Canberra with Toongabbie scouts, assisted with catering at Lego Robotics event at Macquarie University and at Holroyd Council's Australia Day celebrations.

Socially we attended a thank you morning tea at Ronald McDonald House, a Trivia night at 1st Toongabbie Scout Hall. We visited the city for the Vivid Festival and walked all the city lights. Some members took part in a tour of the Tank Stream. In July, we attended a Gang Show performance.

Our weekend away this year was to Mudgee, with lots of sightseeing, wine tasting, talking and of course eating.

I would like to thank our Office Bearers for the last year and all members who volunteered their time in helping others.

Stephen Shaw
Chairperson
Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

The membership of Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship has been steady over the past twelve months with 21 members and one prospective member. Whilst most members are involved in support of Cumberland Gang Show, we continually seek to expand our membership base.

As well as participating in the 2013 season of Cumberland Gang Show, Fellowship members attended the Australasian NATPAC meeting in Auckland in August, the Branch Scout Fellowship Indaba at Glenfield in October, the Region Awards Dinner at Toongabbie in November and the State Cuboree at Cataract in January.

Our social program included attending a visit to the Scout Heritage Museum at Newington in May; a very successful show recovery dinner at Parramatta Leagues Club in July; a visit to the Sydney Observatory on a clear September night; an end of year visit to Garden Island in November; a very pleasant weekend in Orange at

the beginning of February; and an evening of aquagolf at Penrith in March. Many of these activities included numerous coffee breaks and sharing meals together. The outstanding success of our social program continues to be 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 Regional Jamboree, to Dragon Skin and to the Cuboree at the start of the new year. Holroyd District members participated in the Holroyd Australia Day Celebrations and Holroyd Festival parade.

Two members were recognised in the 2013 World Scout Day Awards. Jeanie Wood was awarded a Silver Emu and Judy Barnes was awarded a Silver Koala.

My special thanks to my fellow members of the executive: Secretary Jeanie Wood, Treasurer Steve Munro and Deputy Chairperson Adrian Wilson. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and have certainly ensured the great success of the past twelve months. I look forward to our Fellowship enjoying another exciting year in 2014-2015.

Lyall Wood
Chairperson
Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship

WARATAH ACTIVITY

Our Fellowship Members have assisted at several activities in the past year, including our most challenging event ever – Waratah 2013: The Amazing Race – and the Region Venturer Scout Social Camp in February. Fellowship Members have also been helping at Dragon Skin, and various Venturer Scout courses.

The Waratah Activity Fellowship is currently expanding its promotional efforts to recruit former Rovers that would like to remain in Scouting and keep involved in various activities.

Members are already preparing for our next Waratah camp in November and we look forward to having other Scout Fellowships join with us as we support this growing event.





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