



THE
ADVENTURE
BEGINS

**Scouts Australia, NSW
Greater Western Sydney Region
71st Annual Report
April 2017 - March 2018**



**SCOUTS
AUSTRALIA**

www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

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

Blacktown District Rover Crew
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 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 Baulkham Hills 'Outdoor' 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
Western Sydney (BLIA)

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

Thanks to the many Leaders and Youth Members who contributed to the photography in this publication.

Annual Report designed by *Matt Thompson*

Greater Western Sydney Region Team 2017-2018

REGION PRESIDENT	Ross Grove
REGION CHAIRPERSON	Debbie Howlett
REGION TREASURER	Greg Brown
REGION COMMISSIONER	Neville Henderson OAM
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	David Stopps
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	Tony Dent
REGION OFFICE ASSISTANTS	Kim Harris & Wendy Dimmock

Region Commissioners

RC JOEY SCOUTS	Brian Zarth
RC CUB SCOUTS	Anne Thompson / Gabie Thompson
RC SCOUTS	Tracey Stopps
RC VENTURER SCOUTS	Brian Nelson
RC ROVERS	David Twist
RC ACTIVITIES	Mark Fell
RC ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT	Cassie Rec
RC COMMUNICATIONS & PR	Matt Thompson
RC INTERNATIONAL	Peter Nickl OAM
RC MEMBER SUPPORT	Carol Cope

District Commissioners

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

Region Patrons

Julie Owens MP
Federal Member for Parramatta

Susan Templeman MP
Federal Member for Macquarie

Ray Williams MP
State Member for Castle Hill

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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.

MINUTES FROM 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Minutes of the 70th Annual Report Presentation of the Region Scout Council held at Bundilla Scout Camp on Sunday 7th May, 2017 commencing at 2.30pm.

THE SCOUT PRAYER: Led by Tony Dent - Deputy Region Commissioner

PRESENT: Region President Ross Grove, Region Chair Debbie Howlett and others as per attendance book.

APOLOGIES: Read by David Stopps - Deputy Region Commissioner

WELCOME: Mr Ross Grove, Region President welcomed all those present.

PRESENTATION TO ALAN OVERTON AM: Neville Tomkins OAM, Chief Commissioner Scouts NSW

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALAN OVERTON AM AWARD AWARDEE: Neville Henderson OAM, Region Commissioner

RECIPIENT: Anne Thompson (Region Commissioner, Cub Scouts)

CITATION: Read by Ann Pounder, Honorary Commissioner Region

PRESENTATION OF AWARD: Alan Overton AM

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 69th Annual General Meeting of the Region Council held on Sunday, 19th June, 2016 were circulated in the Annual Report and adopted.

MOVED: Tony Dent SECONDED: Gabie Thompson

2. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial Report

Mr. Paul Thompson, Region Treasurer

Well under budget by \$30K. Excellent hires at Bundilla. Gang Show surplus.

Annual Report

Mr. Neville Henderson OAM, Region Commissioner

MOVED the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statement

Mrs Debbie Howlett, Chair GWS Region Executive

SECONDED the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statement

Mr Colin Nicholas, Honorary Commissioner

ADDRESS BY:

Mr Mark Taylor - State Member for Seven Hills

(arranged funding to upgrade Bundilla disabled friendly toilets)

Mr Phil Crutchley - Region Commissioner SC&T and Deputy Chairman Scouts NSW Board

3. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

REGION PRESIDENT	Mr Ross Grove	TRUSTEES	The Region Commissioner
REGION CHAIR	Mrs Debbie Howlett		Mr Peter Stieme
REGION TREASURER	Mr Greg Brown		Mr David Stopps

MOVED: Colin Nicholas SECONDED: Steve Wallace

4. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF REGION EXECUTIVE

Mr Peter Stieme	Mr Lyall Wood AM RFD	Mrs Melissa Harding	Mr Paul Roach
Mrs Patricia Shaw	Mr David Stopps	Mr Michael Majoor	Mr Glenn Duncan
Mrs Pamela Garske	Mrs Margo Dalziel	Mr Peter Nickl OAM	Mr Craig Kennedy

4 Ms Natalie Castellanos

REGION COMMISSIONER

It gives me great pleasure to present the 71st annual report of Greater Western Sydney Region. This is my eighth and final report as your Region Commissioner as I step down from the role on 1st August 2018.

I decided that after almost nine years as your Region Commissioner and thirty four as a leader it is time to do a bit more travelling in my caravan. I thank everyone who I have had the pleasure of working with for your friendship and support.

Our region consists of 44 Scout Groups, 5 Scout Fellowships and 10 Rover Crews. The Region operates with seven districts, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Hills, Holroyd, Parramatta and Penrith. We keep in regular contact with the State Members of Parliament, the Federal Members of Parliament and the various Mayors and a number of the councilors as they are the people who can help the region and groups.



During the year we saw the retirement of our Region Commissioner Cub Scouts, Anne Thompson, after six years in the position. We thank Anne for her dedicated service to the Cub Scout Section but she will not be lost to Scouting as Anne has accepted a role as an Honorary Commissioner. We welcomed Gabie Thompson (no relation) as the new incumbent in the role. It is good to have you aboard and working as part of the Region Team.



I am happy to be able to report that our membership increased by 4.19% in the past 12 months and the most pleasing result was the increase in youth members of 5.98%. Unfortunately we had a loss of leaders of 1.64% but there are several reasons for this loss. We can not rest on our laurels and must continue to make sure we retain our members as well as recruit new members.

We again had a successful Adult Recognition Awards Presentation at Wentworthville Leagues Club in October with 225 people in attendance to see friends, colleagues and peers recognized for their service to Scouting. Thanks to our Chief Commissioner Neville Tomkins, Region President Ross Grove, Region Chair Debbie Howlett and my Deputy Region Commissioner David Stopps for assisting with the presentation of the awards. We had 82 leaders and supporters receive awards in 2017. We have again booked the venue for our 2018 Awards Dinner on 18 October 2018.

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 moving forward. We want you to know we couldn't do it without you and appreciate your efforts.

We are also fortunate to have a treasurer as keen as Greg Brown who keeps an eye on the finances and budget of the region. Further I must recognize our Region Scribe Pam Garske who keeps a record of our meetings and our various delegates who regularly attend the Region Executive each month. It is also a pleasure to work with Debbie Howlett our Region Chair who keeps our monthly meetings on track and is keen to keep an eye on the business of Region.

It is hard for the region to operate without the services of a team of exceptional leaders who are not only dedicated to their duties but perform at an

unbelievably high level and give up so much of their precious spare time to “do their best”. Every section runs smoothly with many region activities geared to the age of the participants and please read the section reports showing how busy they have been during the past year. I don’t wish to single out any of the leaders but must note the contribution of Matt Thompson as our webmaster, keeping our information up to date and Anne Thompson who does a wonderful job editing and producing the Region Bulletin each month.

To Kim, our excellent Office Assistant, congratulations on eight years of dedicated service to Scouting, the region and the groups and Wendy who joined the staff in 2016 and I am sure you join with me in thanking them for the time they spend keeping the region running as efficiently as it does. They took over the administration for The Golden West Region in 2016 and I know the groups in that region are very happy with their service. We couldn’t do without them as part of our team.

Finally, thanks to my deputies, David Stopps and Tony Dent, for the assistance they give me to ensure the region runs so smoothly. Good to know that I have good people to run problems past.

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

Neville Henderson OAM
Region Commissioner

REGION CHAIRPERSON

Another year has passed and so much has happened in GWS at both at the local Group level and within the Region as a whole. We have achieved growth in numbers, especially in the Youth sections; this we should celebrate; but we can’t let our focus go, we must all participate in the mission to increase our numbers at both youth and leaders levels for 2018. We have left our footprint in the community in so many ways and this engagement needs to continue to celebrate what Scouting can do for all and sundry and not just our members, but society at large! I would also like to pass on my heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Neville Henderson our Region Commissioner who is vacating the position after 9 years at the helm. He has steered the Region through some turbulent waters and certainly has been a stalwart in the Scouting community. We hope to see his smiling face around the Region in the future, so it isn’t “goodbye Neville but so long”!



So remember the following:

“Scouting is a Game with a Purpose” William Hillcourt
1917

And ask what is your purpose within that game?

Yours in Scouting

Debbie Howlett
Region Chairperson



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 2018

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	Administration		
	<i>Income</i>		
1,745	Saleable Items Income	1,116	1,200
600	Donation	667	5,000
<u>1,310</u>	Sundry Income	<u>2,219</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>3,655</u>		<u>4,002</u>	<u>6,200</u>
	<i>Expenditure</i>		
54,878	Salaries and On Costs	51,923	56,196
1,485	Awards, Badges & Scarves	1,918	2,000
1,834	Computer Expenses	254	1,200
-	Depreciation	-	240
2,476	Equipment Rental	206	2,476
(454)	Meeting/Award Dinner Expenses, net of receipts	(270)	(750)
1,424	Postage	1,359	1,800
1,954	Printing & Stationery	1,795	1,800
24	Repairs & Maintenance	585	240
760	Saleable Items Cost	1,793	240
1,121	Security of Premises	877	792
2,243	Telephone	1,355	2,400
109	Sundry Expense	134	-
<u>67,854</u>		<u>61,929</u>	<u>68,634</u>
<u>(64,199)</u>	Net Administration Cost	<u>(57,927)</u>	<u>(62,434)</u>
<u>(860)</u>	Development & Promotion	<u>(2,772)</u>	<u>(1,630)</u>
	Camps & Activity Centres		
<u>17,312</u>	Bundilla	<u>7,927</u>	<u>(5,492)</u>
<u>17,312</u>		<u>7,927</u>	<u>(5,492)</u>
	Scouting Activities		
6,284	RC Section - Joeys	(774)	5,712
646	RC Section - Cubs	2,241	1,700
3,090	RC Section - Scouts	4,234	4,440
2,735	RC Section - Venturers	2,476	2,145
(308)	RC Section - Rovers	(240)	(320)
7,040	RC Section - Activities	9,321	1,320
(1,848)	RC Section - Others	(2,751)	(1,868)
(152)	International Section	(80)	(160)
12,845	Gang Show	(6,566)	5,477
<u>(1,292)</u>	Districts	<u>(1,360)</u>	<u>(1,760)</u>
<u>29,040</u>		<u>6,501</u>	<u>16,686</u>
<u>(280)</u>	Leader Training	<u>1,123</u>	<u>3,120</u>
<u>(7,272)</u>	Property	<u>2,094</u>	<u>8,931</u>
<u>(26,259)</u>	Net Region Cost of Operation	<u>(43,054)</u>	<u>(40,819)</u>

Greg Brown
Region Treasurer

REGION OFFICE

Kim has now completed eight years of service in the office and Wendy has been with us for almost a year. Even though we feel on occasions that we are overworked we really enjoy the challenges we face.

In 2017 year we continued the administration of the office work for The Golden West Region and this is still working particularly well.

In the past 12 months we have assisted with the Region Adult Recognition Awards Presentation Dinner, processed 82 nominations for the 2017 and 62 nominations for the 2018 Adult Recognition Awards completed received and verified the applications for the Joey Fun Day and the Cub Fun Day and around 1000 applications for the Region Jamborette on the long weekend in June. Once again it rained, what a shock. These special events were in addition to processing the many normal region activities we handle during our normal day. Thanks to Matt Thompson for the EMS registration system which is making the applications much easier to process.

The work load in processing membership forms never seems to get any less even with the introduction of the new Scoutlink computer system by State Office. Hopefully when it is fully operational and groups are responsible to manage their own records, then we will have more time to spend on other region matters. State have implemented a new accounting system which will probably increase our workload in future.

Thanks to the visitors to the office and members of the region team who are patient when we are handling their enquiries, answering the phone or writing a receipt. It is nice to deal with pleasant people and makes our job more enjoyable. We would ask that if you arrive at the office on closing time you understand that we may hurry you out as we have children to collect from school and take them to various Scouting and sporting activities.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the 2018 Adult Awards Presentation in October at Wentworthville Leagues and catching up on the latest news.

Kim Harris & Wendy Dimmock
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, Channel 7 Sunrise weather motorhome rally and much much more.

There is a lot of interest from outside the Scouting movement to use Bundilla as community groups get to learn the virtues of our wonderful facility so close to the city and transport. We get many more community groups than Scouting groups even though our Scouting fee is far lower than many other comparable camp sites.

We have been lucky enough to get a State Government Grant which has assisted with the conversion of the old grey boy's shower block outside the Peter Waite Room into two disabled friendly toilets and we were lucky to secure the remainder of the finances to complete this project in the current Scouting year.

Unfortunately, our camp is getting older and we are finding that the repairs and maintenance are getting more expensive. Region is handing over a couple of redundant properties to State Office to sell and we will be requesting some of the sale price to reroof the boy's quarters and resurface the carpark.

Thanks to the office ladies for assisting with the bookings and collecting the fees. You do an amazing job.

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

David & Tracey Stopps
Camp Caretakers



SECTION REPORTS

JOEY SCOUTS

Time really flies when you're having fun and that's exactly describes this year in Joey Scouts. Our year started off with the "Pirates of Bundilla" Joey Fun Day, a State Konara Bubbling with fun and activities.

The 2017 Joey Fun Day - Pirates of Bundilla was well attended and supported by the various sections and activities teams in GWS as well as Sydney Trains. We did have a spot of wet weather, but that was short lived and all activities were very well received by the Joeyes. Once again Outback Steakhouse sponsored our event with Lunch. Thank you to everyone that made this event a great success.

In 2017 we held a State Konara at Glenfield Scout Camp. The Theme was Bubbles of Fun and Activities. The event was well represented by GWS and other leaders from across NSW and the ACT. The most raved about activity was the Peacock Spiders by the ACT. All leaders received a Konara Thermos drink bottle and a Bindi Kangaroo USB full of resources.

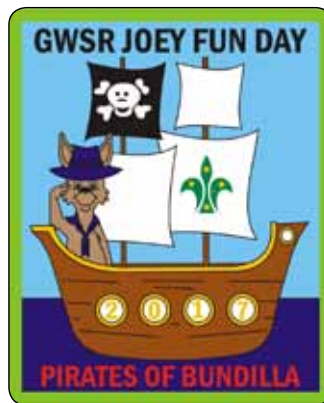
Joey Scouts continue to be part of Cumberland Gang Show's Comet Cast. The theme this year was "Live Laugh Smile". and our comet cast definitely did Live, Laugh and Smile. They ran 8 shows during the July School Holidays. It was great to see them supported by so many Joey Scout mobs sitting in the audience. Thank you to cast & crew of Cumberland for providing a fantastic opportunity to our Joey Scouts.



The Joey Scout Section is a highly transient section with Joeyes moving to cubs within 2 years. This means our Joey Leaders need to renew their Joey mob every 2 years. That's a lot of work. At this point I would like to thank all those leaders and their support committees for all their hard work and dedication to Scouting. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed.

This year we continue to recognise and invest in our leaders. I would like to Congratulate Mika Ishii, Kai Xue, Buddhima Kannangara, Lina Li, David Tonitto, Lachlan McGinty, Mark Dring, Jade Suthers, Rebecca Knox, Aryin Maidin and Hye Kim on Achieving their Certificates of Adult Leadership. Special Congratulations to Leonie Plummer on receiving the Silver Emu Award, Valerie Lockman, Dianne Quan & myself on receiving the Meritorious Service Award, Angus Boxall, Sharon Ellicott, Lauren Massie, Paula Mitchell and Kasey Staples for receiving a Special Service Award.

In GWS, Joey Scouts enjoy a wealth of support from the Region Council, Region Executive and all the District Councils, I have been humbled to hear the positive





attitude and encouragement we get from all of you. Thank you.

I would also like to give a big Hop Hop Hop to my Joey Scouts GWS Region Team, Leonie Plummer (Parramatta), Dianne Quan (Hills), Valerie Lockman (Blacktown & Holroyd), Caroline Watts (Hawkesbury), Jodie Shaw (Penrith). You have all been fantastic. You have all stepped up to the mark, and given me great confidence that the Districts are in good hands. I would also like to thank Jill Heath, our State Commissioner Joey Scouts. Jill has been a great supporter behind the scenes and despite being at the top, the creativity hasn't stopped and we look forward to next year's NSW State Konara.

Finally a special thank you to all our Joey Leaders and supporters. Your tireless effort week in and week out is what makes all this work. I admire all the creativity and enthusiasm I see around our Joey Mobs. BRAVOOO!

Yours in Scouting

Brian Zarth (Magpie)
Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)



Promise Challenge 2017-2018

1st Balcombe Heights
Erik Schwalbe

1st Kellyville
Charlie Gravina

1st Cambridge Park
Hannah Loxley
Dylan Mathieson
Harley Phillips

1st Murray Farm
Charlie Gravina

1st Oakville
Jack Allen
Cameron McKenzie
William Sholz

1st Carlingford
Poppy Brown
Porsha Gill
Aryadita Rai
Quinlin Yap

1st St Marys
Kirsten McDonald
Hannah Suthers

1st Dural
Zachary Cherry
Kristina Taylor

1st Winston Hills
Grace Kokay
Emma Selwood
Isla Selwood

1st Erskine Park
Annelise Leary

2nd Castle Hill
Akhil Kuchibhotla
Yusuf Tajudeen
Hugh Wilson

1st Glossodia
Brandon Elliott
Hayley Tonito



CUB SCOUTS

Although I am no longer the RC Cub Scouts, having resigned my position in December 2017; the lovely Gabie Thompson who is now the RCCS has allowed me to write the first half of this report.

On May 7, during our Region ARP I was announced as the recipient for the inaugural Alan Overton Award. This was an absolute shock but great honour for me and the man himself, Mr Alan Overton presented me with a beautiful plaque which now hangs proudly near my front door. I know my acceptance speech was poor but the words were heartfelt as I was so overwhelmed at the time. My sincere thanks to whoever nominated me and to the Committee for choosing me! My congratulations and best wishes go to the recipient of the Award this year.



2017 was another very busy and successful year for the Cub Scout section.

The annual **Youth Helper Course** was held on May 20 with 10 enthusiastic participants; 7 from GWS and 3 all the way from Hunter & Coastal.

Special thanks to my assistant on course, Shirley Robinson and Andy Thompson who cooked a BBQ lunch for us. Sincere thanks to all who came in to run section specific sessions; Jeff Hook, Lyn Mann, Tracey Stopps and Brian Nelson – couldn't have done it without you.

A most fun and informative State run **District Leader Cub Scouts Conference** was held at Bundilla on June 24 and 25. Gabie Thompson, Melissa Harding, Jeff Hook, Melissa McAulay, Jim Abbott and I attended and we ran a Spy wide game which was enjoyed by all.

In June we welcomed Jim Abbott ACSL 1st Grose Vale to our team after John Aquilina CSL 1st Glossodia decided to move up to the VS section.



John will be greatly missed and we can't thank him enough for all his hard work and dedication to the Cub Scout section.

Region Palaver 'Survivor Bundilla' was held on July 29 with 40 participants including the Seeonee Team. Even though the numbers were low, everyone enjoyed the day in the sunshine and gained some new ideas for outdoor Scouting and cooking to try out with their Cubs.

Cub Scout Leadership Course: Sixty seven Cub Scouts attended the course on August 26 at Bundilla. Despite the large number, the course ran smoothly thanks to some excellent assistant Leaders who made up for the four missing members of my Seeonee Team and Gabie who had lost her voice! This was the first time we had Scouts doing service at this course and they were very helpful (both were from 1st Winston Hills). The cubs worked very well together and gave us really good positive feedback in the forum.

A huge thank you to my husband Paul Thompson, who was our only cook for the day! He did an amazing job with some help from Shirley and the leaders.

Sadly this course was the final Seeonee event for Shirley Robinson, who decided to retire from her position as Region Advisor. Shirley has been a most valuable asset to the team and a wonderful role model; always happy and available to help out whenever she could – she will be greatly missed and we thank her for her many years of dedicated service to the Cub Scout section.



Nineteen Cub Packs took part in the **Parramatta Ramble** on September 17. It was a glorious spring day and the cubs and leaders found their way around the many historical sights and landmarks in Parramatta by following the directions and searching for the answers to the questions on the handout.

Cub Baanya (a camp for older Cub Scouts) was held on October 28 and 29 at Bundilla with 55 Cubs in attendance. The Cubs camped and worked in Patrols with Scouts as Pls and APLs. The Scouts were great with the cubs and enjoyed the bases as much as the cubs. Sincere thanks to my Seeonee Team for helping to bring it all together; the Cub Scout Leaders who camped with the Cubs and to Pinaroo for running the Map and Compass base.



My final event as RCCS was our annual Seeonee Christmas outing. Usually a very small affair with just the Seeonee Team going somewhere special for dinner. Little did I know that there was the most wonderful surprise waiting for me in the Chinese restaurant we had booked for dinner! My dear friend Gabie had invited many of my Scouting friends and my own family along as well!

I had a wonderful night, although a little embarrassed and overwhelmed by the speeches, beautiful flowers and lovely gifts. Can't thank everyone enough for their well wishes for the future and for all the support and encouragement and friendship they have given me during my 24 years in Scouting and especially the last seven as RCCS.

Before I hand this report over to Gabie Thompson to complete, I must say thank you to some very special people:

To RC Neville Henderson OAM, who has been a great support to me and the Seeonee Team – he very rarely misses an opportunity to call in to our events; to chat to the cubs and leaders and to share a meal with us.

He has also kindly offered me a position as Honorary Commissioner which enables me to remain in uniform and help out wherever I am needed.

To David and Tracey Stopps for looking after us when we are at Bundilla.

To the lovely Region Office ladies, Kim and Wendy who have to deal with all the paperwork and enquiries that go with our Cub happenings at Bundilla.

To the Region Seeonee Team who continually work hard to deliver good Scouting to not only their own Districts but to the whole Region by planning and delivering

some of the best courses, camps & social gatherings for youth members and leaders - despite being busy with their own work and families. It is a huge commitment and I can't thank them enough for all their dedication and support during my time as RCCS.

And finally to my family; wonderful husband Paul, sons Matt and Andy and Daughter-in-Law Meagan, who are always on hand to help out whenever they can and offer advice and support when needed.

Anne Thompson (Wontolla)

Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts) - until Dec '17

With Anne deciding to retire from the position of Region Cub Scout Leader in December, I decided to apply for the role, and before long, Neville Henderson had phoned me for an interview. After being appointed to the role with an effective date of 1st January 2018, I got to work on preparing a fitting 'thank-you' (not a farewell) to Anne for the many years she has devoted to Cub Scouts in the Region, and in particularly the almost seven years spent as Region Commissioner Cub Scouts.

Anne's 24 years of Scouting has been dedicated to Cub Scouts, as a Cub Leader, District Cub Leader and Region Commissioner Cub Scouts. She is a true inspiration to all. Anne continues to support the Region as editor of the Region Bulletin keeping Leaders and readers of the Region up to date with the latest news, and continues her support of Cumberland Gang Show. She has also continued to be of great support to me, to the Region Seeonee team and to the Cub Scouts of the Region, providing support and assistance when ever asked. I would like to thank Anne for being a fantastic mentor.

2018 started off big! On the 10th March, led by Tracey Hansford, the Region Water Activities Team ran a **Joey/Cub Fun Day on the Water** at Lake Parramatta. I attended the day assisting with some of the land activities, and was extremely pleased to see that well over a hundred Cubs participated on the day. The activities and bases on the day were well planned out, covering off a number of requirements of the Cub Canoeing Level 1 and parts of Level 2 badge, however the Cubs did not notice as they were having too much fun getting wet!

The first **Cub Scout Leadership Course** for 2018 was held at Bundilla on 24th March. Forty-five Cubs participated in the course, completing the requirements of the Badge. Although a number of the Region Seonee Team were unavailable to assist on the day, I was supported by some wonderful Cub Leaders from across the Region, which I am very thankful for. This was to be the first major Cub activity on the calendar since Anne had left, and I was feeling a little overwhelmed. I took the Friday off work to spend the day preparing, making sure everything was ready and in place. I now know how much hard work goes into the preparations to ensure the day runs smoothly. My hat goes off to Anne for all the hard work she put into the last twelve or thirteen courses she had run over the past six ½ years.

As if Cub Scout Leadership Course was not exhausting enough, the following day on 25th March, Michelle McLean (Blacktown District), Ian Lutz (Hills District) and I, were back at Bundilla to run a Cub base at the **Joey Fun Day**. The theme was Joeys in Space and thanks to the team, we had a wonderful base for the Joeys to visit, with astronaut training, planet spotting and identification, and an astronaut glove box with space rocks and moon dust to explore. The Joeys had a blast!

I am very pleased to report that the Cub Scout numbers in the Region have consistently increased each year over the past three years, a great result. I truly believe that this is a result of good leaders providing good programming, listening to the youth members and tailoring the program to engage with them. I would like to thank each and every leader for the many hours and commitment that you put into the growth and development of our youth. Keep up the good work.

I would like to congratulate the 46 Cub Scouts that have achieved the top award, the Grey Wolf Award, over the past twelve months. Their achievements are to be commended. I am sure that without the continued assistance and monitoring of Cub Leaders these achievements would not be possible. One, two, three WOLF!

We have some fantastic activities planned for the remainder of 2018 for both Cub Scouts and Cub Leaders, and later this year we will see more of the New Youth Program being introduced, some very exciting times ahead! I look forward to working together with the Region Seonee team to continue to build a fun, exciting, adventurous and engaging program for the Cub Scouts of the Region.

Gabie Thompson (Darzee)
Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts) - from Jan '18



Grey Wolf Awards April 2017 - March 2018

1st Balcombe Heights Max Schwalbe	1st Kellyville Adam Boxsell Alahna Dimmock
1st Blackheath Jonah Wilson	1st Kings Langley Georgina Roper
1st Blaxland Austin Lark Ewan Tamsett	1st North Rocks Makayla Furst Sabrina Ruhe
1st Carlingford Laura Schmitt Oliver Cooper Ramy Razi Zoe Stephen	1st Oakville Dean Vassallo Jesse Campbell
1st Dural Alexis Taylor Hunter McGhie Sam Crofts	1st Parramatta Galexia Donna-Aroon Joanna Joseph Kayley Roles Natasha Chandler Tanushal Mansi
1st Ermington Ashleigh Speirs Declan Bragg Kedar Chidambaram Madelyn McCabe	1st Riverstone Jack Lomax
1st Erskine Park Salina Kayani	1st Rydalmere Angus McAulay Sarah Iaconis
1st Glossodia Joshua Spillane	1st South Penrith Byron Garden
1st Greystanes Isabelle Phillips	2nd Baulkham Hills Suhanya Jayasuriya
1st Grose Vale Benjamin Arrowsmith Laura Henderson Martin Drayton	2nd Castle Hill Flynn Mogilin Valerie Jiang
1st Hawkesbury Lucas Krebs	2nd Kings Langley Christian Lahood Thomas Wilson
1st Hazelbrook Besufikad Ward Caeden Drake	2nd Northmead Arian Dean

SCOUTS

Well what a big year we have had! We had over 1000 people attend our "War Through the Ages" Jamborette at Cataract, where we almost got washed away with the torrential rain. Luckily for us the rain stopped during the early hours of Saturday morning and opened to sunny skies for the rest of the weekend. We were joined by South Metropolitan Region to make it the biggest Jamborette that I've been to. Scouts could earn a double badge if they participated in South Mets activities. We had other regions join us too such as The Golden West, Sydney North and South Coast and Tablelands. Our Jamborette is becoming well known for its bases and the fun we all have! So much so that I believe we will require an 'Out of Region' District this year.



Scouts and leaders have participated in many different activities throughout the year. Scout hike was one which saw the y-nots from 1st Glossodia and The Howicks from 2nd Castle Hill achieve Silver Awards. State Rally was another of them. The top three patrols were:

1st Place:
Wonder Women, 2nd Baulkham Hills

2nd Place:
Original Recipe, 1st Castle Hill

3rd Place
The Magical Unicorns, 1st North Rocks

Unofficially we, GWS along with Hume, had the best RAC at State Rally. I must say the Venturer base probably had something to do with that so I thank all the Venturers who came along to deliver such a great base! I believe they had as much fun as the Scouts.



The last year has seen 11 Australian Scout Medallions being awarded to our Scouts. The variety of leadership activities astounds me. Our scouts are starting to think outside the box which is a wonderful thing to see. B-R-A-V-O-O-O!!!



We also held our 1st Region Basic Scout Leadership Course in a long time. We had 16 Scouts attend the course. They all seemed to have a great time and we were lucky enough to have the Blacktown Rover Crew cater for us as part of their service.



October saw Jota/Joti taking place at Bowen Mountain, Ringrose Public School and at Glenbrook. I didn't get to see any Scouts at Bowen Mountain as they were all off geocaching at the time but I do believe they all had a great time. They even included a visit to the observatory! The Scouts and Cubs in Holroyd were having fun talking to Scouts from all over the world, playing Minecraft and using the radios.

I would like to thank all the Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders who have made my job fairly easy over the last year. I thank you all for your help, attendance and participation in all we do. You are all very much appreciated. B-R-A-V-O!!

Yours in Scouting

Tracey (Wiangi) Stopps
Region Commissioner (Scouts)

VENTURER SCOUTS

The past year in the Venturer Section has seen many highlights throughout the Region, most notably 23 Queen's Scouts being awarded, which is the most ever awarded in GWS history.



Mitchell Gallagher	1st Kings Langley
Sophie White	1st Carlingford
Bryn Catlin	1st Erskine Park
Damon Love	1st Erskine Park
Andrew MacCormick	1st Glossodia
Adam Beale	1st Castle Hill
Eva Cole	1st South Penrith
Cooper Vanderjagt	1st South Penrith
Cameron Letta	1st South Penrith
Owen Astley	1s/2nd Blacktown
Rose Rodgers	1st Oakville
Marni Collier	1st Kellyville
Furqan Chowdhury	1st/2nd Blacktown
Katelyn Woods	1st/2nd Blacktown
Aidan Bath	1st Kellyville
Byron Davis	1st North Rocks
David Elliot	1st Springwood
Sean Turner	1st Winston Hills
Anusha Pillai	1st Carlingford
Emma Katen	1st Carlingford
Caitlin Wilby	1st Carlingford
Bethany Mercieca	1st Blaxland
Isabella Blow	1st Carlingford

Region Courses support the Queen's Scout program and continued with strong attendances - 50 across two Unit Management Courses, 25 at our Initiative Activity, 29 at our Leadership Course and 19 at our Environment Camp.

In 2017, a new national youth leadership program was launched called You+Lead. The You component of the program is run in each state, and applicants from those courses are selected to attend the National Lead residential program in South Australia. This year, our region was represented by Lauren Barnett from 1st Ermington, Jesse Krauksts-Garofano from 1st Castle Hill and Connor Kennedy from 1st South Penrith.



Following David Jacobs' appointment as State Commissioner Venturer Scouts, a State Venturer Scout Council was formed comprising youth members from each Region and the section Commissioners. Emma Katen and Bryn Catlin were appointed in 2017, and Lauren Barnett and Connor Kennedy have been appointed in 2018. They attend the Commissioners' Conferences at BPSC Pennant Hills and help implement initiatives developed by the Council (such as the State Venturer Camp "Vertigo", the social media program, and a young leader development program).



Several members of the Region joined the Australian Contingent at the VCP German National Jamboree. Aidan Bath from 1st Kellyville and Daniel Krnel from 2nd Baulkham Hills attending the State Venturer Environment Camp in July.



Twenty four Venturer Scouts and linking Scouts from 1st Carlingford, 1st Dural, 1st Ermington, 1st Kellyville, 1st Kings Langley, 1st North Rocks, 1st Winston Hills, 1st/2nd Blacktown and 1st/2nd Merrylands performed on stage as cast members of the 2017 Cumberland Gang Show.

In June 2017, over 180 Venturer Scouts from the Region volunteered at the 40th Jamborette held at Cataract Scout Camp. Congratulations to 1st Ermington and 1st Winston Hills for being voted by the Patrol Leaders as the best Venturer activity base for the second year running. Another team from 2nd Baulkham Hills, 1st Castle Hill and 1st North Rocks reprised 2nd Baulkham Hills base at State Rally at Glenfield.



In November, around 180 competitors and more than 50 supporting adults attended "The Tah Vinci Code" Waratah 2017. This year the event was in the form of a wide game, starting in Windsor, then travelling to the Sydney CBD, then out to Winston Hills for a zip-line approach to Bundilla and finishing in Parramatta. Teams decoded clues to find places of significance in each location. Congratulations to "We Will WOK 500 Miles", from 1st Glossodia who won the event this year.



Venturer Scouts from 1st Westmead completed their journey to Everest Base Camp in Nepal in November. This completed an epic program of 18 months of hikes and fitness training to prepare for the trip.

A large contingent of Venturers from the Region attended "Get Set", the Australian Venture at Camp Warrabee, near Brisbane in January.

Another large contingent attended Dragon Skin over Easter, this time at Vulcan State Forest. An early Easter this year meant the weather was warmer than usual. Our teams did one better this year, with the top placed team from 1st Blaxland coming in 7th and 1st/2nd Merrylands coming in 19th. Great result for everyone who attended.

Units in our Region are preparing their own major events: 2nd Baulkham Hills are going to Vanuatu in April 2018 for a mix of adventure, service, sharing skills and commemorating ANZAC Day; 2nd Glossodia are preparing to walk the Kings Trail in Sweden; and 1st South Penrith are preparing to go to Jambori (that's the Irish National Jamboree) in July and August.



I would like to thank my team - Matt Vella (Blacktown/Holroyd), Shaun Lesslie (Hills South), Judi Barr (Nepean/Blu Mountains) and Andrew Cross who has been acting in the role after Judy's retirement for their support and help in managing the section during my first year in the job. Judy retired during 2017 after a distinguished career in Venturing. In 2018, Shaun Lesslie stepped down after 8 years of service, including running Waratah in 2017. I also welcome back Chris Lummis who has returned to Scouting after a few years off as District Leader for Parramatta.

Special thanks as well to my predecessor, Aaron Wardle, who continues to be available for advice and counsel, and somehow manages to reply to my questions with his usual consideration and speed.

I also thank all the Youth Members, Adult Leaders and Fellowship Members in the Region for making the Venturer youth program in our Region the success that it is. I look forward to continuing our work to open up the range of experiences available in the Venturer Scout section.

Brian Nelson
Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts)



ROVERS

Rovers in Greater Western Sydney have had another stellar year of service, adventure and fun in 2017. The year kicked off with 10 Rovers from our region joining the 60-strong contingent to The Moot – the 20th Australian Rover Moot, held in Victoria. Rovers had the opportunity to experience a range of activities including an expedition in Tasmania, skydiving and horse riding, as well as providing service to the local communities of Seymour and Yea. 2017 also saw approximately 500 Australian Rovers attend the World Scout Moot in Iceland. Greater Western Sydney had another large contingent attend this event from a range of Crews. At the end of 2017, Westmead Rovers undertook an expedition to Everest Base Camp – suffice to say, GWS have been all over the world over the last year!



Rovers continued their service throughout the year with a strong presence at Jamborette, Dragonskin and Waratah, supporting the Scout and Venturer section programs throughout the year. Many Rovers from the region also provide service to weekly meetings across all sections of Scouting. GWS also had 5 Rovers take roles on the NSW Rover Council in 2017, including Luke Saunders as the first ever Rover to hold the role of State Commissioner (Rovers) and Ayla Jones as the Vice Chairman of the Council. 2018 continues our representation on the NSW Rover Council with 4 Rovers serving on the executive – Natalie Castellanos as Vice Chair, Rachel Ewings as Training, Chris Ward as Communications and Rachael Fulton as NRC Delegate. Additionally, Angus Boxall is continuing in his term as Chairman of the National Rover Council.



1st Blaxland (Kalangadoo) Rovers ran another awesome moot in August, themed 'Straya Moot' participants over the weekend engaged in a range of themed activities at Bielany on the Colo River. Congratulations to Blacktown Rover Crew on winning this event – we look forward to 'High School Mootical' being held later in 2018. Rovers from across the region have been active at inter-region and state events, as well as interstate events such as Mudbash. A number of awards were received by members of the region, with 2nd Castle Hill Rover Crew being awarded the Quality Roving Award and Rachel Ewings of 2nd Baulkham Hills receiving a Rover Recognition Award.

The region was also strongly represented at Rover Training Courses in 2017 – both in participants and in trainers. 6 Rovers from 6 different Crews completed their Advanced Training, and approximately 20 Rovers complete Basic Training in the Rover section. Ayla Jones was also awarded her Rover Wood Badge in April, demonstrating the commitment of Rovers in the Region to personal growth and the development of peers. This training has already begun to be implemented in Crews across the region, shown by the growth in number of Rovers in the region from 140 to 154, and the strengthening of our 10 Crews.

Our thanks is extended once again to David Twist (Twisty), our Region Commissioner (Rovers), and Matt Lee, our former Assistant Region Commissioner (Rovers), for all the support they have given to Rovers across the Region over the last year. We say a fond farewell to Matt as he commences work in London and we wish him all the best!

2018 is a huge year for Rovers as we celebrate the centenary of our section. We would love for the region to get on board and celebrate with us. Rovers from across the region have been working hard to prepare for the year – unsure how to celebrate? Contact your local Crew and we'll be in touch!



Rachel Ewings - Region Rover Council Vice-Chair 2018-19

2017 ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS



SILVER KANGAROO – for Eminent Achievement and Exceptional Service

LANG, Robert David ----- Region Leader (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region
 WOOD, Jeanette Kathryn----- Group Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s) Scout Group



SILVER EMU – for Sustained and Exceptional Service

CORNELL, Suzanne Jai ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Toongabbie Cub Pack
 PLUMMER, Leonie Briar----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Joey Mob



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – for Distinguished Service

ALLAN, Mary-Jane ----- Fellowship Member, Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship
 WILSON, Evelyn Joyce ----- Fellowship Member, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship



SILVER KOALA – for Distinguished Service

BARNES, Kenneth Glenn ----- District Adviser, Penrith City District
 RIGG, James Bryan----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Venturer Unit
 WARDELL, Jennifer Ruth ----- Rover Adviser (Responsible), Kings Langley Rover Crew (Group)



SILVER WATTLE – for Outstanding Service

GARRETT, Mary----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st St Marys Cub Pack



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD – for Outstanding Service

MUNRO, James Cooper----- Fellowship Member, Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship
 TAMSETT, Lesley Anne----- Fellowship Member, Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship
 TAMSETT, Peter Lawrence ----- Fellowship Member, Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD – for Excellent Service

ALLAN, Rick----- Fellowship Member, Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship
 ANDERSON, Helen Lorraine ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Venturer Unit
 ASTLEY, Jodie----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Blacktown Venturer Unit
 BATH, Andrew Roderick ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Venturer Unit
 BOWDEN, Dharma Asima----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Venturer Unit
 BURROWS, Noriko----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Scout Troop ‘Bartoo’
 CHIN, Richard Kenneth ----- Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Scout Troop ‘Erskine’
 CONNOR, Elena ----- Group Leader, 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Group
 CRICHTON, Stephen John----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blackheath Cub Pack
 DUNCAN, Glenn Robert ----- Adult Helper, 1st St Marys Scout Group
 EDWARDS, Janice Petrina----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Erskine Park Venturer Unit
 EDWARDS, Jason Ross ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Erskine Park Venturer Unit
 FRY, Michael John ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills Venturer Unit
 HILLYARD, Jo-Ann ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Cub Pack ‘Keego’
 HORNSTRA, Tristan Andrew----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s) Venturer Unit
 HUTHNANCE, Jennifer Lynne ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Springwood Venturer Unit
 KENNEDY, Craig Michael ----- Region Supporter, Greater Western Sydney Region
 LOCKMAN, Valerie----- District Joey Scout Leader, Blacktown District
 MACCORMICK, Jane Mary ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Glossodia Venturer Unit
 NELSON, Brian James ----- Region Commissioner (Venturers), Greater Western Sydney Region

PAGE, Taylor Mackenzie Ka ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills Cub Pack 'Rumbriah'
 PRIEST, Tracey Marie ----- Group Leader, 1st Cambridge Park Scout Group
 QUAN, Dianne Mary ----- Joey Scout Leader, 2nd Castle Hill Joey Mob
 ROCHE, David Allan ----- Region Adviser, Greater Western Sydney Region
 ROYNON, Margaret ----- Group Secretary, 1st Kellyville Scout Group
 WADE, William Stephen ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Troop
 WALLACE, Kelly Ann ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Blacktown Venturer Unit
 ZARTH, Brian ----- Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts), Greater Western Sydney Region



SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD – For Good Service

ABBOTT, James Morgan ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Grose Vale Cub Pack
 ABBOTTS, Simon David ----- Adult Helper, Nepean Rover Crew (Group)
 BENNETT, Emily Jane ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Cub Pack 'Impeesa'
 BOULTON, David Mitchell ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Erskine Park Cub Pack
 BOXALL, Angus Gregory Tho ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Joey Mob
 BUERCKNER, Scott Lindsay ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Whalan Cub Pack
 BUTLER, Jennifer ----- Group Chairman, 1st/2nd Blacktown Scout Group
 CALAFATE, Anthony Cosme ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Cub Pack 'Darzee'
 COBCROFT, Grant Leslie ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st St Marys Cub Pack
 CORBETT, Rita ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Scout Troop
 DAVIS, Sharon Lee ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Blackheath Scout Troop
 DILWORTH, Erica Katherine ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Venturer Unit
 DRAKE, Peta ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Hazelbrook Cub Pack 'Cumbora'
 ELLICOTT, Brian James ----- Trainee Leader (Cub Scouts), 1st Hazelbrook Cub Pack 'Cumbora'
 ELLICOTT, Sharon ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Hazelbrook Joey Mob
 ELLIS, Alan James ----- Group Treasurer, 1st Kellyville Scout Group
 FURST, Stephen George ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Cub Pack 'Barloo'
 GABRIEL, Emma Lucy ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Grose Vale Cub Pack
 GOODE, Jonathon Patrick G ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Scout Troop
 HARTMANN, Kurt Geoffrey ----- Scout Leader, 1st Blackheath Scout Troop
 HENDERSON, Brett Kevin ----- Group Leader, 1st Blaxland Scout Group
 HENRIKSSON, Nils Erik ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Murray Farm Cub Pack 'Possum'
 HUGHES, Bernard Joseph ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Cub Pack 'Barloo'
 JEFFERIES, Paul John ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Troop
 JONES, Jullie ----- Group Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Group
 KIRKBY, Aline Louise ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Grose Vale Scout Troop
 LEGUIER, Jason Robert ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Scout Troop
 LEHRER, Jeffrey Robert ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Dural Venturer Unit
 LOCKMAN, Adele Joy ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Venturer Unit
 MASSIE, Lauren Patricia ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Joey Mob
 MCAULAY, Melissa Stafford ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Rydalmere Cub Pack
 MCCREDDEN, Ann Margaret ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Venturer Unit
 MITCHELL, Paula Margaret ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Joey Mob
 MORDEN, Cathryn Jane ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Scout Troop
 MOXEY, Paul Richard ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith Scout Troop 'Yee Na Pah'
 PRIEST, Matthew ----- Scout Leader, 1st Cambridge Park Scout Troop
 RIGBY, Robert John ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith Scout Troop 'Yee Na Pah'
 SHAROFF, Jonathan Peter ----- Fellowship Member, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship
 SHAROFF, Katherine Amy ----- Region Supporter, Greater Western Sydney Region
 SHERLOCK, Melissa Anne ----- Group Treasurer, 1st Winston Hills Scout Group
 STAPLES, Kasey Lee ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st North Mount Druitt
 WILSON, Laurence John ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Scout Troop

ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

For any Scout Group the most precious resource are the leaders, without them there is no Scout program. Great leaders provide the framework for a fantastic youth program and make it possible to be a youth led organisation. Volunteers cannot be great leaders without training.

70% of training to be a leader occurs on the job, turning up each week at the hall, attending events and activities, and getting involved in Scouting. 20% occurs through interactions with others, networking with leaders, learning from youth members, and observing Scouting in action. Only 10% of training occurs in formal learning, e-learning and residential weekends. The 70:20:10 model is widely recognised in the training industry for producing great learning results. As a region GWS does a really good job of supporting this model of training. We support and encourage new leaders to get fully involved in the Scout Group, we facilitate learning through coaching and mentoring from personal leader advisers, and we promote formal training. As a region we are all responsible for the training of our new leaders, everyone has a role to play.



Wood Badge Recipients April 2016 - March 2017

Cub Scout Section

Richelle Coundrelis, 2nd Northmead

Scout Section

Eric Harris, 2nd Baulkham Hills

Helmut Joham, 2nd Kings Langley

Steven Kahn, 1st Riverstone

Paul Moxey, 1st South Penrith 'Yee Na Pah'

Venturer Scout Section

Erica Dilworth, 1st North Rocks

Adele Lockman, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's)

The formal part of training provides the background, the structure, and the content for new leaders. In the last year 86 GWS leaders have attended a Basic Practical Supplement training weekend and 26 attended an Advanced Practical Supplement. Our leaders have attended training opportunities all over NSW. Thank you particularly to those that have supported training in the regional areas.

Our journey in Scout training should never end. Like any other organisation we have to adopt new recommendations, seek out innovation, and support change. A great leader is a willing participant in training and actively seeks out learning opportunities. Part of the journey for all leaders is to finish advanced training and gain the Wood Badge. Congratulations to the 7 GWS leaders who have reached this pinnacle this year.

Thank you to all the training team and Personal Leader Advisors across GWS who have delivered training, mentored new Leaders, followed up, attended meetings, chased paperwork, and created a great learning culture in GWS.

Special thanks to Frank Barr who has decided to take a step back from his Training Team appointment. Frank has organised many sectional training weekends, bush walking courses, etc. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience, and has given 33 years of service as a leader. Frank embodies the 70:20:10 model. He has been incredibly active in Scouting events and adventurous activities, he is awesome at networking and sharing his experience with new leaders, and he runs a great training weekend. Thanks also to Judy who has always supported Frank in his adventurous activities, and demonstrated great leadership herself over 25 years. Even in retirement Frank continues to be available to support leader training and assess adventurous activities.

BRAVOOO Frank and Judy.



The challenge for the year ahead is for all leaders to embrace change and innovation, seek out opportunities for growth and development, and continue your training. It's a journey that never ends.

Cassie Rec
Region Commissioner
(Adult Training & Development)

COMMUNICATIONS & PR

The last year has been a very busy one for the team;

- maintenance of and content updates to Region website, Region Calendar and Region Directory
- updates to Region email distribution lists
- management of social media for Region pages
- promotion of Region events and activities
- design and reproduction of Region Annual Report

It was great to see such a good turn up of youth and leaders to help promote Scouting at the Eels game at Olympic Stadium, the Sunrise special with Sam Mac at Bundilla and many other PR events throughout the Region during the year. Also, thanks to everyone who came along to support Cumberland Gang Show, another fantastic PR activity for Scouting in GWS.



I would like to extend my thanks to our Bulletin Editor, Anne Thompson for all the hard work and many hours she puts into collating articles and publishing our monthly newsletter - please make sure you all read every edition! My thanks also to our Website Content Editor, Suzanne Cornell for all her help with keeping our website and Region calendar updated, and thanks to David Shaw for his ongoing support and assistance with Region communications.

My thanks to all our amazing leaders for their continued support and dedication to Scouting in our Region. Please keep up the great work! Our youth members thank you for your service.

Matt Thompson
Region Commissioner
(Communications & PR)



INTERNATIONAL

The past year has been challenging for me in relation to not being able to represent International activities at several State and Interstate events.

The International Team did however mount our activity base at the Region Jamborette.

In addition our Region had members in attendance at the following International Events:

- 15th World Rover Iceland
- National Rover New Zealand
- International Jamboree England
- 13th World Scout Youth Forum Azerbaijan
- 41st World Scout Conference Azerbaijan
- 36th World Scout Collectors Meeting England

Other International items of interest occurring during the past twelve months were as follows:

- Scout International Student Exchange Program both participating and home hospitality
- Continuing assistance with Scouting in Vanuatu
- We had Leaders from Canada, Germany, Hong Kong and New Zealand visit during the year

Our Region was donated a further 18 hard drive units from Fairfield Public School to use with Joti/Jota in our Region.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all who have wished me well during the last six months and again thank the members of our team for their encouragement which is very much appreciated, for without such support we would not have achieved so much.

In closing and on behalf of the International Team I would like to thank Neville Henderson and all the Office Staff for the support and assistance given to us in achieving what we have in our Region for International Scouting.

Peter Nick OAM
Region Commissioner (International)

STRATEGY

Those of you who know me well, will know that I prefer to look forward rather than behind. However, it is important that periodically we look at what we have achieved in the past year, to celebrate the wins and learn from our mistakes.

In 2017/18, we have maintained our focus on our three key areas;

- Growth in Youth membership;
- Growth in Leader membership; and
- Sustainable Funding for groups

and as you can see, our strategy has not changed in GWS.

We were fortunate to have as our keynote speaker, the Group Leader for 1st Cherrybrook Bruce Mills. Bruce shared with us his experience as they grew their group to one of the largest in NSW.

I'm sure all attendees have taken some of Bruce's techniques within their own Group.



GWS with the Parramatta Eels

On Friday 1st September, 140 Scouts headed off to ANZ Stadium to watch the Parramatta Eels play the final round for the 2017 season.

Our team engaged many of the 21,533 crowd and worked to raise awareness & profile of Scouting in the community, handing out brochures, Scout Balloons, Tattoos. In addition, Westmead Venturers also ran a stall to promote their Mt Everest trek and take donations.

The outcome is that the community had the opportunity to find out more about Scouting and support recruitment of new members, leaders and parent helpers.



How we will deliver on NSW Branch Seven Strategic Priorities

Scouts NSW Vision
To be seen as the pre-eminent youth organisation in Australia. We engage and inspire young Australians to develop confidence, resilience and leadership.



This is important to ensure the best for our members, and that Scouting flourishes for many years to come. The good news is that we have grown member numbers 11.7% over the past three years in Greater Western Sydney, and I wanted to thank everyone for making Scouting a better organisation.

In 2017, we had a number of significant events to support our strategy and I am looking forward to an even better 2018.

Greater Western Sydney Group Forum

On Sunday 30th July 2017, the Leadership came together at Bundilla to discuss Scouting in Greater Western Sydney in 2018.

60 Group Leaders, Leaders in Charge, Section Leaders, District and Region Leaders workshopped some key issues that we need to focus on over the next couple of years to ensure our movement continues the journey from GOOD to GREAT, with this session particularly focusing on member retention.

Through visibility and discussion with adult attendees we had a number of enquiries that we could direct to the Scout website and contact numbers.

The Parramatta Eels were very happy with our efforts and engagement and have confirmed they are keen to support for us by offering another opportunity early in the 2018 season, on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

Lastly, I would say thanks to our Region Commissioner. The work that goes into leading the Greater Western Sydney Region is time consuming, frustrating and your contribution is mostly unseen. But I know it has also been very rewarding. It is clear you are leaving this Region in a better position than when you were asked to take the role 9 years ago. Thank you.

“Look wide, even when you think you are looking wide, look wider still”

Lord Robert Baden-Powell

Yours in Scouting

Geoff Henderson
Region Leader (Strategy)



MEMBER SUPPORT

The decision of the NSW Scout Association to strengthen the Member Support Teams throughout the State has meant that we now have a team in our Region to assist Youths, Leaders and Parents through difficult circumstances.

One of our roles is to educate our frontline leaders in how to be more supportive in trying times if and when the need arises in their group, district or region.

We are the source of information and support but we do not replace professional counsel.

As part of our ongoing support there will also be new positions for Child Safe Advocates as further development in the support of all members of the Association. This new initiative will commence from 1st July, 2018 and will also be available at major events as another means of ensuring the safety and protection of all our members.

Contact with the Member Support Team can be made through our GWS Region Office on 02 9639 2488 or email membersupport@greaterwestscouts.com.au.

Our State Child Protection Hotline can also be contacted in emergencies on 1800 605 004 or ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au.

Carol Cope
Region Commissioner (Member Support)
Child Safe Advocate



ACTIVITIES



When I took on the role as Region Commissioner for Activities back in early 2011, my focus then, is exactly what it is now. It is also the same focus that my whole team share.

“To provide opportunity for all our youth members to get out, learn, and safely experience, some great adventurous activities”.

Every year this is becoming more and more difficult, as we all struggle with the tranny of qualifications, accreditation and paperwork. And it is not just in Scouting. It is across so many facets of life.

It is my underlying belief we are going to see a resurgence in Scouting over the next few years as society starts to realize many of the “old fashion skills” we teach, are actually not so old fashion after all. It is these real-life skills, not generally taught in schools or educational institutions, that are helping and equipping our youth to be more resilient, as they face the many challenges of life.

Abseiling off a cliff is not just about how to tie a few knots. It is working together as a team, checking off each person’s work, learning leadership skills, examining your surrounds, learning risk management, pushing yourself beyond your comfort zone.

There is another part to the equation too. It is simply called the “Fun Factor”.

Learning by doing, and having fun at the same time. Doesn’t get much better than that.

Our Water Activities Team has again had a very active year. Big thank you to Tracey Hansford, who has headed up the team for another great year with numerous workshops, and overnight canoe hikes which are always popular. Big thank also to Bryan Hall and Ben Gross who have been a great support to Tracey, particularly with the overnight trips.

While still on the water, I must thank Keith Travers, ably supported by John Van Den Burg, who have run a number of five-day sailing courses, during the school holidays. Keith has also been a great support to myself, keeping the grass under control at the Boatshed, as well as looking after repairs on all our watercraft.



Our Rock Team can certainly hold its own covering Abseiling, High Ropes, Canyoning and Caving.

Stuart Cowen continued to be very busy with numerous abseiling workshops run at various locations including Bowen Mountain and Yellow Rock. Thank you Stuart!

David (Macca) McKinley has also been busy with abseiling workshops, as well as running a number of High Ropes Workshops. (High Ropes is basically like the climbing wall but on natural surfaces.)





For those who don't mind getting a bit wet, Ross Smith along with his fellow Yabbies has certainly taken canyoning to the next level with numerous trips to some truly wonderful locations within the mountains. Big thank you to Ross for sharing his expertise and passion!

Our caving team continues to go from strength to strength under the very capable hands of Meredith Stewart. Along with the very popular caving weekends at both Wee Jasper and Bungonia, the team have also explored some of the lesser known caves systems, including Bendethra Caves, Tuglow Caves and Timor Caves. Along with Meredith I would like to acknowledge her great support team including David McKinley, Paul Jefferies, Tallia Joel, and Jordan Fenech, as well as a number of Rovers and Venturers, all with high levels in caving skills.



I would also like to acknowledge the great support of Mick Fry to the Rock Team. Mick is highly qualified in rope skills, professionally, and is a huge asset to the team in an advisor role, to the very latest in gear and setups.

Tristan Flores has continued his fine efforts for promoting his real passion of bushwalking. Living in Blackheath, there are probably not many tracks Tristan does not know about. Equally at home doing a simple half day hike with some cubs, to multi day hikes which even the most experienced hikers can be challenged with. Tristan has also been a huge supporter for Scouts doing their Green Cord Hikes.

The Region Flying Fox Team is certainly one area where changes in rules and regulations are restricting us to what we can or can't now do. Big thank you to Quentin Napier, who with very high skills in rigging as an arborist, has been able to guide us in this area, ensuring absolute safety to all. It has certainly been Quentin's skills which have allowed us to setup the onsite fox at the Jamborette with a double hawser, giving us the ability to push through a far greater number of participants.

The climbing wall continues to be very popular, however with so few people within the region able to tow it, and even less actually qualified to run it, we have had to decline on a large number of events, which has been unfortunate.

Our science base, headed up by John Leahy continues to fascinate both youth and leaders alike. John has retired from work in the last few years and has cut back on the number of activities he is now running. Sadly, we have not had anyone come up to the plate to carry on this unique and fascinating activity.

Another one of those very unique activities which GWS can offer is the Circus Team, headed up by Mitchell Hodgson. Here participants not only learn some of the great skills associated with the Circus, but also get the opportunity to demonstrate those skills at both Scouting and community events.

Our Radio Guru, Karl Humphreys, along with his State commitments, continues to provide opportunity to our youth to learn not just about radios, but also GPS units, and SPOT technology; which is taking navigation and tracking skills to the next level.

Of course, not everybody wants to jump off a cliff, or swim through a cave. Gang Show is very much part of the Activities Team, offering opportunity in not just singing and dancing, but theatre lighting, sound, special effects, stage construction, stage rigging, stage painting, costume design and making, just to name a few. With 8 shows over the July school holidays each year Gang Show is as good as it gets without going professional.

It is an absolute pleasure to be part of such a diverse and dynamic team that is the GWS Region Activity Team. Thank you for sharing your passion. Thank you for your uncompromising attitude to safety and thank you all for the FUN!

Mark Fell (Dingo)
Region Commissioner (Activities)

BUSHWALKING

I am pleased to report we continued to have an active presence within the region. Throughout 2017 we attended 12 region hikes and supported approx. 250 participants. These ranged from 2 to 6 days in duration and were broken down into different ability groups. Highlights included Ancient Forests near Maddens Plains in August, Gooches Crater near Bell in October and Grand Pacific Walk near Wollongong in December. An expedition was scheduled for January on the Jenolan River (Hellgate Canyon). These expeditions are longer in duration and enable us to reach deeper in the wilderness and apply our developing skills for practical use.



In addition to the region hike we attended a number of state courses to provide support, we visited and conferred with a number of individual members and groups to provide general advice on a range of issues.

Our objective is to promote the benefits which are associated with the art of bushwalking and to increase the overall skills and confidence of our Scouting community. We do this in the hope it inspires others to dream big. Safety is key to all of this. As we run more events there is a responsibility for Safety to increase proportionally.



Towards the end of 2017 we saw Frank retire from being a course leader, Frank remains active with the admin side of things and has already stepped in at least once to be a relief course leader. Tristan commenced his controlled instructor training in January 2018. Connor Kennedy from South Penrith and Brian Nelson from Region attended as helpers on many occasions this year. Gerry Witte from Blackheath and Andrew Cross from South Penrith provided vehicle support. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

It is sensational to see more and more bushwalks running across the region. Remember to ask your neighbouring groups if you can share resources.

Safe travels.

Tristan Flores
Region Leader (Bushwalking)



WATER

Unfortunately, early 2017 really looked like the year of “the big water”, with the Joey & Cub Fun Day on the Water needing to be postponed from March to April 2017, due to heavy rain and flooding at the Lake Parramatta dam wall and our April Canoe Workshop on the Hawkesbury being postponed with the risk of a water release from Warragamba as the dam neared peak capacity! The current was running at around 15kph with lots of junk, large trees and debris causing a serious risk to the health and wellbeing of both novice and experienced paddlers.

Happily, the water did slow down enough that the canoe workshop weekend on the 6-7 May 2017 at

Tench Reserve at Penrith did run and everyone had a great time. Unhappily, I destroyed my shoulder loading boats for this weekend and lined up for yet another shoulder reconstruction at the end of May 2017 that still has me on “restricted paddling duties”. Thanks to a great GWS Water Activities team, the water activities have continued along strongly despite my part time participation.

Mark Fell, Ben Gross and Bryan Hall demonstrated quality skills as Canoe and Kayak Guides and led several activities during Spring and Summer 2017-2018. Some journeys took place on the Hawkesbury, MacDonald River and Webbs Creek, which proved popular with both youth and leaders developing canoes skills in preparation for award Scheme canoe journeys. There were several Canoe Workshops and 2 Rescue Days to round out the season.

Other notable assistants in canoeing were Josie Botto and Helen Anderson (who are almost ready for their Guide levels). Duncan Watts and Tim West were also handy assistants on several canoe weekends on the Hawkesbury. Robert Rigby and Tim Uidam also proved very helpful with youth members on the water.

The 2018 Joey and Cub Fun Day on the Water was bigger than ever with over 320 participants attending. WOW – what a blast! The youth members had a fantastic time thanks to the great assistance offered by leaders, venturers and scouts assisting with bases, both on and off the water. We could not have done it without you. Thanks too must be offered to all the groups who came along and those groups who supplied boats, lifejackets and paddles so that every child had a turn on the water (and thankfully the sun was shining and it was a great day). A big thank you to the parents, who took everything in their stride and pitched in to help on the Weather Game!

Keith Travers has offered up a great Sailing program for both youth and leaders. During the school holidays, Keith, John and Joey have presented 3 five-day sailing workshops and have done some serious work spreading the sailing bug amongst our Members. These workshops are at great value to Scout Members, where for only \$100, members get 5 jam packed days learning about sailing and putting their skills to the test.

We look forward to the Winter season where we have a number of 2 day journeys planned to prepare youth members for upcoming award scheme journeys.

Tracey Hansford
Water Activities Coordinator

CAVING *News from Underground*

GWSR Cavers have had another busy year underground. The Caving workshops at Bungonia are where Venturers and older Scouts who have already learned abseiling at a two day workshop can come and learn basic caving skills. Return trips allow them to increase their caving and ropes skills and explore new caves. Some continue their learning experience, coming back as “team” members who help teach new cavers the ropes.

Last September brought us four new participants, and some Leaders with caving experience from South Met Region. This March we had five new participants; one of these joined our team. As a few youth Team members have moved on in the past couple of years, it is wonderful to see some new faces taking on leadership roles in caving.

Our trips last year were to Bendethra in May, and beautiful, wet Tuglow Cave in November. Both of these trips were a great success. As Bendethra caves are horizontal, we offered it to people who had not yet learned abseiling, and everyone had a very enjoyable experience there. We endeavour to run one trip to a cave that does not require permission, allowing us to take as many people as possible, then one that requires a permit, which limits our numbers somewhat but allows us to visit more inaccessible cave systems.

Caving activities cannot be run without a team of keen, knowledgeable Cavers. I would like to thank the Caving Guides, David McKinley, Tallia Joel, and Paul Jefferies. We also have a few Leaders who come along who are very helpful. Thanks especially (but not exclusively) to Jason Edwards and Clinton Stewart. Many of our Venturer team have moved on to Rovers but still come caving.

For the moment we say farewell to Tallia Joel, who is off to the US to apply her caving and Scouting skills at Summer Camp. We wish her the best of luck on her adventures and look forward to caving with her again sometime in the future.

Caving is great fun, and a unique way to explore our environment. We learn geology, teamwork, rope skills, and friendship. We look forward to seeing you underground sometime.

Meredith Stewart
Caving Coordinator

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW



2017 was our 48th season and was very successful with a continuation of the new staging and technical enhancements. The theme of the show was Live, Laugh and Smile and was made up of a great mix of new and old original material and commercial songs.

The show continued the 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.

The Comet Cast continued with young 7 to 9 year old Joey Scouts, Cub Scouts and the Guiding equivalent performing in the first act.

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 retained the schedule of 8 performances including 4 matinees which continued to be popular. A total of 4500 patrons attended our spectacular performances at Parramatta Riverside Theatre in the July school holidays.

We again experienced the yearly frustration of finding a suitable warehouse for the final rehearsals involving costumes, sets, the stage boxes and the orchestra.

The theme of the 2018 show is Feel the Beat. We were delighted to have 180 applicants audition for this season. Again there is a great mix of new and old original material and commercial songs.



We are continuing to conduct all the ticket sales through the theatre box office including reduced prices for early purchases. Concentrated marketing has continued to be focused towards Scouting leaders and Scouting sections.

The show maintains its mission to engender self confidence in all the Gang through the medium of performing arts.

We continue to rehearse at Crestwood High School with two weekend camps at Pennant Hills.

The first and second rehearsal camps have been most successful. The show is now commencing the final rehearsals prior to heading towards the season at Parramatta Riverside Theatre.

Cumberland Gang Show continued to run performing arts workshops throughout the Region promoting self-expression in Scouting.

Planning has commenced to celebrate our 50th season in 2019 with the theme 50 Years Together.

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

The Science Activities continue to be helpful to Leaders who have booked us previously, as well as new Leaders who have discovered us by recommendation or the GWS Website. This year Blackheath Cubs & Scouts invited us for a Water Rocket evening, somewhere that was difficult for me to get to while I was working. Retirement does have some unexpected advantages.

This year we have delivered science programs to: 1st/2nd Merrylands Cubs (Light Nite - Aug), 1st Dural Venturers (Liquid N2 - Sept), 1st Greystanes Joey & Cubs (Water Rockets - Nov), and twice to Penrith Venturers (Liquid N2 - July and Pyro Rockets - Dec); to name just a few of the Groups we visited this year.

The **Joey Leaders weekend at Glenfield** in May was an opportunity to show some of the activities we do during the Science nights. A photoframe showing a rotating display of Jokeys having fun raised the usual requests to visit Groups.

This year's **Jamborette** at Cataract Park had us involving the Scouts with high voltage sparks playing tunes on the **Tesla Coil**, a high speed (in your head) **Virtual Reality Car Racing** experience, and three examples of heat generated motion in a **model Steam Engine**, a low temperature differential **Stirling Engine**, and a **Peltier Device** generating voltage from ice and hot water to drive an electric motor.

Space was the theme for the **Joey Fun Day** at Bundilla this year. Karl and I bought the Water Rocket and fired it under the power line, aiming for distance rather than height. One Joey kept appearing on the end of the queue for "one more go", long after his group had moved on.



Karl Humphreys delivered another '**Radio Skills**' course for Scouts involving theory and practice in radio use. Karl, as a member of BMARC, has applied to be trained as a Foundation Licence Assessor, which will allow him to test and pass Scouts who do the two day Foundation Licence course.

Karl and I maintain close contact with the **Amateur Radio** fraternity through the yearly Field day at Wyong and the local Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club at Glenbrook.

JOTA last October involved both Karl and me at Bowen Mt with Hawkesbury and Penrith Scouts. Radio reception was limited due to a broken local repeater but the **Internet** was functioning well on 4G. The Leaders had organised about 10 different technology Bases and the **Hawkesbury Fellowship** manning an extensive array of car motor, electrical puzzles and high voltage activities. The local Amateur Astronomers arrived Saturday night with two telescopes to show the Scouts rings and moons of Saturn.

Other JOTA bases in the Region were at Ringrose School with Brett Nicholas, and Glenbrook Scout Hall with the BMARC.

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 Leader (Radio, Science & Technology)



DISTRICT REPORTS

BLACKTOWN

The year began with 28 of our Cubs, 10 of their Leaders and 2 Parent Helpers attending the 6th NSW Cuboree at Cataract Scout Park where all had a great time finding out about "Myths & Legends".

Our District Joeys participated in Joey Fun Day at Bundilla in April and the Cubs held their annual District Billy Cary Day in August.

Queen's Scout Presentations during the year were to Mitchell Gallagher from 1st Kings Langley in May and Owen Astley from 1st/2nd Blacktown in November.

Scouts from 2nd Kings Langley attended the "Horrible Adventures" Scout Hike held in the Belanglo State Forest in May and then in June the District troops attended the 40th Region Jamborette at Cataract Scout Park to participate in "War Through the Ages".

The Venturers participated in Dragon Skin over the Easter weekend and they then enjoyed the Waratah in November which saw them travelling by public transport to their forest location.

The Blacktown Rover crew have consolidated their numbers and are providing a valuable resource in leadership roles at Groups within the District.

In April the District organised a bus to Canberra where 57 Scouts and 11 Guides from the Blacktown area participated in the ANZAC Day Dawn Service and other activities in the nation's capital. We also participated in local ANZAC services as well as those in the city.

The Blacktown City Festival was held in May and over 100 Scouts from all sections and their Leaders participated in the march through the streets of Blacktown, they then enjoyed the festival activities with their families. We had some great news at the end of the year about Blacktown City Council providing a long term promotion for Scouting in the District. More information will be in next year's report.

In May Andrew "Stumpy" Anderson resigned from the 2nd Kings Langley Scout Group to take up a Scouting role on the north coast closer to where he now lives. Andrew started at Scouts with 1st Lalor Park (now known as 2KL) as a Joey in 1990 and was the Group Leader when he left for greener pastures. Thanks Andrew for your dedication to Scouting.

George Saville the Cub Scout Leader from 1st Mt Druitt passed away in September after many years of dedication to Scouting, George is greatly missed by his Cubs, at Cub Activities and by the Leaders in the District.

The Scouting year ended with preparations for our Venturers to head off to Queensland to participate in the January 2018 Australian Venture "Get Set!" at Camp Warrawee just north of Brisbane.

We still struggle in most Groups in the District to have sufficient leaders to run all the sections, and I would like to thank the Group Leaders and their teams for the work they are doing to provide quality Scouting to the youth members. I would also like to thank Valerie Lockman, Michelle McLean, Glenn Connor and Matt Vella for their roles in the district sections, to Ann Pounder for looking after and following up the training needs of our Leaders and Craig Kennedy as our representative on the Region Executive.

Ross Howlett
District Commissioner

BLUE MOUNTAINS

This year has been a year of Fun and Activity, Growth and building.

The District as a whole has experienced support from the community that has generated stronger ties and partnerships. The Leaders of the district deserve all the accolades for it is their commitment and service that has allowed so many of our young people to be able to take the path of Scouting.

1st Blackheath under the Leadership and Management of Mark McGrath and Russell Brown have seen the membership grow to a significant size, including the recruitment of Joey Scouts for the first time and the resurrection of the Venturer section.

1st Blaxland under the Leadership of Brett Henderson and Andrew Gardner, have maintained the strength of the group with all sections that include 2 cub packs. Brett and Andrew have been very successful in being granted several Grants that will help with the upgrade to the group's facilities and much needed improvements for the Group and the community at large.

1st Hazelbrook under the Leadership of Rebecca Elliot has combined with the local politicians in getting the message out that a community is only as strong as the community that gets involved. The partnership of many local councillors has made 1st Hazelbrook a community resource for the betterment of the young people in the area, having an open door to everyone if they need to make a difference.

1st Springwood under the Leadership of Jen Huthnance has a strong committee with the a true sense of purpose, they have established a plan and that has much of the community needs incorporated so to align with the community and service that is a core value of our movement. The Group also celebrated their 70th Anniversary which was a great gathering of past and present, family and friends to remember those who have made the Group what it is today.

The Blue Mountains Fellowship under the Leadership of Richard Mason has made significant contribution to Scouting, running the Jota/Joti base at Glenbrook, cooking for the Cub Leadership course, assisting with the Packs and participating with other Fellowships in a variety of social activities. It was with sadness that a long time member Rick Allen returned home suddenly and all those who knew him will miss his presence and advice.

The District has celebrated with the Groups the success of the year including Promise Challenges, Grey Wolves, Australian Scout Medallions, 2 Queen's Scout and 1 BP Scout Award, the message it sends to the community is that Scouting is still strong and to be involved. With all Groups involved in District, Region, State, National and International events, the fun has always been included in what we do.

Tony Dent
Acting District Commissioner

HAWKESBURY

Youth membership numbers remain stable within the Hawkesbury District. On Average there was a slight increase of youth members within each. Within the four (4) groups, including 1st Glossodia, 1st Grose Vale, 1st Hawkesbury, and 1st Oakville, there are a total of three (3) Joey Mob, four (4) Cub Packs, four (4) Scout Troops, and two (2) Venture Units, a Rover Crew, and the Black Horse Fellowship.

To start the year off, the District celebrated Founders Day at Windsor beach, on the Hawkesbury. The day included; Raft construction and races, Canoeing, swimming, and other water activities. The day was well represented by each group which ended up with a sausage sizzle.

All Groups attended the ANZAC Day March in Richmond and various other ANZAC Day Services within the District. At each event the District laid a wreath on behalf of each Group, and at some of these events we provided assistance in raising and lowering the Flag, assisting VIPs to their seats, and handing out the wreaths. Groups were also represented at Remembrance Day.

Jota /Joti was held at Bowen Mountain Park and was very successful. Thank you to the Scouts Leaders for organising this event. The Scouts spent the weekend camping, whilst on Sunday saw the Joeys, Cubs, and District Girl Guides visit the Park and participate in the numerous Bases that were organised for the youth members.

The District also had a great promotional Scout stand at the Hawkesbury Show where we received many enquiries about Scouting not only for the Hawkesbury District but also for across the Region. The District Scouts also took part in the Grand Parade, which received much support from the spectators.

There were other promotions days carried out, including School visits, and Defence Force Promotion days. These events saw additional members joining the groups within the Hawkesbury.

Joeys continue to rise in numbers within the three Joey mobs. The Mobs worked closely together through out the year and in doing so achieved the Buddy Badge. They ended the year with a trip to the Manly SeaWorld.

The District Cub Scouts were kept busy throughout the year attending many events;

The District Out and About activity was to Parramatta, which saw more than 60 participants attending.

36 Cubs attended the Cuboree at Cataract, which was the Cubs highlight of the year.

There was many nights of interaction between the Groups which included combined nights between the Groups.

The Scout section had a busy year with numerous District and Region activities: Scout Hike, State Rally, District Rally, and Jamborette.

Each Group completed various Red, Blue, and Green Cord Hikes. There were numerous Hikes including; Canoe, Li-lowing, and Bush walking. There were many camps throughout the District: Survival, Surf, and Bush camps.

State Rally was well attended with Hawkesbury District running a successful base.

District rally was well attended and a great time was had by all.

The District Scouts attended Scout hike, where again Hawkesbury District leaders assisted with the hike.

The 1st Glossodia and 1st Oakville Venturer Units continue to grow. Apart from the regular hikes and camping trips, they have carried out and attended a wide range of activities including; Scout Hike, Dragon Skin, Waratah, organised a base at Jamborette.

1st Glossodia Venturers have been planning a hike to Sweden to take on the Kungsleden trail. They have had many fund raising events which have been very successful, and are looking forward to this adventure in July 2018.

Congratulations to Rosie Rodgers (1st Oakville), and Andrew McCormick (1st Glossodia) for achieving their QS award.

Blackhorse Fellowship continues to fundraise throughout the year and helping out the District where they can. They provided District shirts for all the Cubs and Leaders who attended Cuboree, they also organise the Hawkesbury Show site, without their support we would not have a stand at the annual Show. They also assisted in all the promotion days and attend each group and provide many interesting activities.

Although we are always looking for more leaders our Leader numbers have been stable. This year saw five of our Leaders receive Special awards, congratulations to:

1st Oakville: Helen Anderson - Meritorious Service

1st Glossodia: Jane McCormick - Meritorious Service

1st Grose Vale: Aline Kirkby ASL / LIC - Special Service
Jim Abbott ACSL - Special Service
Emma Gabriel ACSL - Special Service

Through very active Parent Support Committees, all Groups had a successful year in fundraising with activities including: helping out at the City to Surf Marathon, Bunnings BBQ, Firewood Raffles, Rotary Raffles, Power Boat Races, Plant Sales, All Holden Day, just to name a few of the fundraising activities.

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 and exciting to all.

Phil Heinrich
District Commissioner

HILLS

Membership continues to grow within the District. Numbers have been increasing well. The District had a 17% increase in youth members & a 12% increase in membership overall.

The District is currently overloaded with youth and we continue plans to commence a new Group in the Rouse Hill area.

The Joey Mobs have been very active, hosting many joint nights with a wide variety of activities such as; District Campfire, District Sleepover, iFly, Manly Sea Life Sanctuary, Air Activities Centre, Scout Heritage Centre and many other fantastic themed events.

The Cub Packs have had a great year, interacting with other Packs & joining in with activities such as; Combined Pack Holiday, District Campfire, iFly, Air Activities Centre, Scout Heritage Centre, District Camp. Cub Baanya, Observatory at Uni of Western Sydney and numerous other themed activities.

The Scout Troops have kept themselves extremely busy, organising activities such as; Jamborette, Scout Hike, Easter Camp, hikes & canoe journeys, Flip Out, preparing for AJ2019 and a plethora of other activities.

The Venturer Units have continued to grow & engage in activities such as; Dragon Skin, State Environment Camp, High Ropes, inter unit challenges, Laser Tag, Waratah, rock climbing, World Jamboree, many expeditions and a vast range of other activities.

The Rover Crews have continued to provide excellent service and participate in activities such as; Dragon Skin, advanced Rover training, many overseas events, leadership roles in activities & performing arts teams, amongst many other activities.

All of the Groups have continued to be active in the community, participating in; Clean Up Australia Day, Anzac Ceremonies, canned food drives, environment & conservation events, and community fairs/fetes/events, just to name a select few.

The youth have continued to strive for excellence achieving a significant amount of badgework including numerous achievements in Joey Scout Promise Challenge, Grey Wolf, Scout Medallion, Queen's Scout Award & BP Awards. The section programs continue to deliver inspiring activities that are increasingly youth led adult supported.

A number of Adult Members in the District, were honoured by the Chief Scout of Australia, the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) in the annual Adult Recognition Awards for good service:

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Andrew Bath, Venturer Scout Leader
1st Kellyville Venturer Unit

Michael Fry, Venturer Scout Leader
2nd Baulkham Hills Venturer Unit

Dianne Quan, Joey Scout Leader
2nd Castle Hill Joey Mob

Margaret Roynon
Group Secretary, 1st Kellyville Scout Group

SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

Tony Calafate, Cub Scout Leader
1st Kellyville Cub Pack 'Darzee'

Alan Ellis, Group Treasurer
1st Kellyville Scout Group

Jonathon Goode, Assistant Scout Leader
1st Kellyville Scout Troop

Paul Jefferies, Assistant Scout Leader
2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Troop

Jullie Jones, Group Leader
1st Balcombe Heights Scout Group

Jason Leguier, Assistant Scout Leader
1st Castle Hill Scout Troop

Jeffrey Lehrer, Venturer Scout Leader
1st Dural Venturer Unit

Lauren Massie, Joey Scout Leader
1st Balcombe Heights Joey Mob

Cathryn Morden, Assistant Scout Leader
1st Castle Hill Scout Troop

I would like to personally thank the adult members for their dedicated & selfless service to the youth in the District. To the District leaders that support myself & the sections, thank you. To the parent helpers & Group Committees that support the Leaders, thank you. To the frontline Leaders that give up more than their fair share of '2 hours per week', thank you. Together we will continue to give the youth a wide variety of experiences and shape their future. Thank you.

Terry Brooke
District Commissioner

HOLROYD

Firstly I would like to recognise and congratulate three members of Holroyd District on receiving the following Awards.

Silver Kangaroo for Eminent and Excellent Service
Dr Jeanette Wood 1st/ 2nd Merrylands.

Meritorious Service Award
Tristan Hornstra 1st / 2nd Merrylands.

Special Service Award
Adele Lockman 1st / 2nd Merrylands

Holroyd District Scouts participated in the many events at Holroyd during the year, Fun 4 Kids, Australia Day and many others.

At the Citizenship Ceremony, the Scouts were ushers, assisting those people that were to become Australian Citizens and as well as those that were nominated for other Awards, by assisting them also to find their allocated seating and other duties that were required on the day.



In recognition of their support they all received a Certificate from the Council.

At the Holroyd Gardens event later that day Holroyd had a promotion stall and we had a good number of enquiries that led to some of those interested later joining a local Group, as part of the day we also participated in an interview with the local 90.5 FM radio station to once again promote the Movement.

Congratulations to all those youth members who achieved excellence in their badge work.

Bravo

To the Leaders again I thank you for your continued support, not only your individual Groups, but also to the youth members of Holroyd. It is with regret that we said goodbye to two Leaders from 1st/2nd Merrylands, to Pauline and Des you will be missed but you will always be a part of the Holroyd Family.

A core group of leaders led by Jeannie Wood formed a District Promotion Team whose sole purpose is to identify where, when and who needs assistance, once again well done to those people on this team.

On a personal note I was extremely surprised and honoured by Holroyd Rotary Club to be invited to one of their meeting nights as a guest speaker to talk about Scouting only to find that I was to be given a Certificate stating that I was to be named a "Paul Harris Fellow" in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world.

\$1000 US was then donated in my name to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

Ron Brown
District Commissioner

PARRAMATTA

Another successful year for Parramatta District with several Groups halting the slide in membership to bring their groups back into solid numbers. Thanks must go to each and every leader in the Parramatta District for the superior efforts that they give to Scouting, with a number of leaders not just operating in their Group role, but also contributing to the region through being active members of the various activities teams. The level of commitment in the district is truly outstanding which results in many of our youth members achieving Promise Challenge, Grey Wolf and Queens Scout

Awards. My hearty congratulation goes to each youth member who achieved a top section award this year and many thanks to the leaders and parents who supported you on your journey!

Special mention this year goes to Jen Lile, the new Group Leader from 1st Murray Farm. Jen took over from former Group Leader, Sarah Worsley, who had started the membership revolution with the introduction of Joey Scouts at Murray Farm. When Sarah followed her husband on a posting to Singapore, she recruited and trained Jen to take over and continue to build on the great foundations that Sarah had begun. Jen replicated Sarah's good methods and hard work and now has one of the strongest Joey Mobs in the District. Her Cub Pack is also very strong. My congratulations to Jen and the team at Murray Farm for their work in turning this group around.

Parramatta District welcomed the BLIA (Buddha's Light International Association) Scouts to NSW with the opening of the Western Sydney BLIA Scout Group at the Nan Tien Temple in Parramatta. This group is one of 3 Buddhist Groups that will be operating in Sydney with the other two Scout groups at the temples in Kogarah and Chatswood opening in 2018. The Parramatta BLIA Scout Group has opened with Cub Scouts meeting on Saturday afternoon. Whilst the group is currently small, plans to invite potential Cub Scouts from the schools surrounding the temple in Cowper Street are underway.

Parramatta District youth members participated in a cornucopia of district and region events, with the Region Jamborette, the District Swimming Carnival and the District Competition Camp being long time favourites. Scout Caving, Abseiling, Bushwalking and Canoeing weekends were well patronised by the youth members.

1st Carlingford Scout Group was selected as a pioneer group for the New Youth Program – The Adventure Begins. Although they are just starting out on the new program, they have embraced it and are keen to kick off with the implementation of SPICES and Plan, Do, Review in Term 2. The District is keen to follow their progress over the coming year. We look forward to the 2018-2019 year and embrace the changes to the youth program.

Plans for 2018-2019 include reopening the 1st Wentworthville Scout Group and an aggressive recruitment program in the Parramatta, Rydalmere and Ermington areas.

Tracey Hansford
District Commissioner

PENRITH CITY

It has been another strong year for Penrith City District as we have continued to grow and re-integrate ourselves into the local community, while at the same time delivering an exciting and adventurous outdoor program.

Our Joey Scouts this year have visited the Penrith Observatory and have had several joint activities between the mobs. It has been great to see 1st St Marys and 1st South Penrith Joey Mobs come out of recess and both mobs are now going strong. During the year, we welcomed Jodie Shaw as our District Joey Scout Leader.

Cubs have continued to grow in leaps and bounds with all 4 packs participating in great district activities such as JOTA, Sports Day and Canoeing Activities. They have also participated in Region Ramble. It has been greatly pleasing to see the pack at 1st South Penrith grow in leaps and bounds from a pack that was almost closed to being a pack of 25 youth in just 12 months. Melissa Harding has continued to lead the District Seeonee as the District Cub Scout Leader.

Getting outdoors has been a key theme for the Scout Section over the last year with the troops participating in a district camp out at Upper Colo as well as a district hike. They participated in the Region Jamborette, Scout and are well into plans to head to Jamboree at the end of 2018. It has also been great to see the District Scout Youth Council re-established and take on a more proactive role in the program. Fiona Sherwin has taken over from Andrew McLean as our District Scout Leader. Unfortunately during the year, we had to recess the troop at 1st St Marys due to lack of numbers, however plans are currently in place to revive this troop in the coming months.

Venturers always seem to be out and about doing something from hiking and canoeing, initiative activities, service to the community, vivid walks, caving, Dragon Skin, Waratah and so much more. Both units at 1st Erskine Park and 1st South Penrith continue to go from strength to strength. During the year, we said farewell to Judy Barr as our District Venturer Scout Leader and Andrew Cross has taken over this role in an acting capacity.

Nepean Rover Crew continues to have a strong focus on service, one again taking a role in the delivery of the (in)famous VOC4 at Dragon Skin as well as helping at District and Region activities such as Jamborette. There



is also a big social element to the program and the crew has been working on getting outdoors more and developing stronger links to the local Venturer Units.

As a district, we have held a number of multi-sectional activities such as running the climbing wall and a major display at the Penrith Real Festival, participation in McHappy Day, a "Wet and Wild" Christmas Activity at the Penrith Aqua park, a Founders Day camp at Euroka Clearing and attendance at ANZAC Day activities at Penrith, St Marys and Wallacia. We also held a district promotional day to promote our programs. We also welcomed Ken Barnes as a District Adviser and Sharon Zarth who has transferred to District Leader – Adult Training & Development.

Of course, all of this can not happen without the leaders and I thank each and every leader in the district for the immense time, dedication and skills they put in to making Penrith City District a great place for Scouting.

Steve Wallace
District Commissioner



SCOUT FELLOWSHIPS

BLUE MOUNTAINS

SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

I am pleased to present this Annual Report of Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship activities.

The Group has again had an enjoyable successful year being involved in service and social activities as follows.

The activities are:

Meetings (1 ARP & 3 General Meetings)

Service activities

- 25.4.2017 Anzac Day march and commemoration service at Glenbrook
- 12.10.2017 ARA Dinner Wentworthville Leagues Club
- 21.10.2017 Jota at Glenbrook Scout Hall
- Term 4 2017 - Assistance with 1st Blaxland Joey Mob by member – Lesley Tamsett
The above is ongoing. Lesley is to be commended and I am sure her service is greatly appreciated by the 1st Blaxland Group.

Social activities

- 15.7.2017 Gang Show at Parramatta Riverside Theatre
- 3.8.2017 Dinner at Michelangelos Restaurant Blaxland
- 2.11.2017 Ten Pin Bowling at Windsor Bowl
- 30.11.2017 Christmas Party at the Munro Residence

Membership

The Group now has 9 members following the tragic sudden death of Rick Allan. The Group was saddened by Rick's passing, as he was a true friend and he played the principal role in the running of the Jota Base.

Awards

- Mary Jane Allan - 30 Years Service Distinguished Service award
- Rick Allan Meritorious Service Award
- Jim Munro Outstanding Service Award

- Lesley Tamsett Outstanding Service Award
- Peter Tamsett Outstanding Service Award

All the above recipients are congratulated and commended for their dedicated service.



The Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship is a group of enthusiastic, committed people, who embrace Scouting ethics, they are an excellent team to work with.

I have been privileged to serve the Group this year and thank them all for the support given to me. I will step down from the position of Chair due to health issues and intend to continue to serve this Group.

Richard Mason

Chairperson - Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship

PINNAROO

SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

This time of year gives us a chance to look back on what has been achieved by a group of dedicated and hard working Scouters, knowing that we have helped Scouting as well as the wider general public .

Before listing what we have achieved I would like to firstly congratulate Peter Nickl OAM on receiving this award - truly well deserved, for a dedicated and hard working Scouter; and to Suzanne Cornell for receiving the Silver Emu, well done and congratulations Suzanne; and welcome to Dennis Welton our newest member.

Our service this year was again varied and involved one or more of our members; they included Clean up Australia Day; assisting at Murray Farm Troop; assisting at 1st Westmead Cub Pack; manning a collection point for the Red Shield appeal where we collected in excess of \$1000; the Sydney Children's Festival; cooking for the Region Cub Scout Leadership course; Anzac Day Services; organising afternoon tea for the Region ARP; assisting the International Base at the Region Jamborette; collecting goods for Ronald McDonald House; obtaining a 13m aluminium flag pole for Bundilla; NSW Agoonoree; Holroyd district JOTA/JOTI; organising a quote for the rubbish and recycle bins for Bundilla; Christmas carol singing and gift giving at a local nursing home; a knotting night with 1st Westmead Cubs and Scouts; running the Map and

Compass base at the Region Cub Baanya; helping pack "The Adventure Begins" resource packs; attending Queen's Scout presentation and as an ongoing service - the Region Scribe.

Thanks to Jan Playford who has one meeting a year at her house with the obligatory supper afterwards - very nice!

On the social side some of our members again visited Cumberland Gang Show and enjoyed a great show, and our weekend away was at Dungog where we had a most enjoyable and relaxing time, thanks go to Ian Clarkson for making all the arrangements.

Thanks must also go to Terry Bennett for taking the reins when I had two stints in hospital.

As Chairman it is pleasing to note that we are more than fulfilling the requirement of the B.S.F.C. in supporting the youth program and their aims.

In closing I would like to thank all the members of this Fellowship for their ongoing hard work and devotion to Scouting, and it's aims in the development of the youth.

Thanks should also go to The Region Commissioner and the hardworking Region office for their ongoing support.

As Chairman I would like to thank all the members of this Fellowship for the continued devotion and hard work that each has contributed, I am very proud to be a member of this Fellowship.

Peter Stieme

Chairperson - Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

The membership of Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship has decreased over the past 12 months to 17 members. Our eldest Fellowship member Rob Provins recently passed away suddenly on 16 March 2018. Another four of our members have maintained their membership despite moving away from Sydney. Whilst most of our members are involved in support of Cumberland Gang Show, we continually seek to expand our membership base. Oversight of Scoutlink member records continues to be difficult as the Fellowship only has access to the records of members with a

Primary Appointment to the Fellowship. The records of members with a Secondary Appointment can't be accessed.

As well as participating in the 2017 season of Cumberland Gang Show, Fellowship members assisted the catering team at the Gang Show second camp at the end of May and the Gang Show reunion in September, and attended the Region Awards Dinner at Wentworth Leagues in October.

Our social program included a very well attended evening at the Henry Lawson Theatre at Werrington in May; a successful show recovery dinner at Lilly's restaurant at Blacktown Soccer Club in July attended by most of our members; a social outing to Mittagong and the Southern Highlands in September; an enjoyable end of year BBQ at the home of Jono Sharoff in November followed by planning our 2018 fellowship program; a pleasant dinner preceding our February business meeting and a successful evening of aquagolf at Penrith Leagues Club in March, once again organised by our younger members. Many of our social program events have been planned by our new social activities organiser, Michael Lockman, ably assisted by his wife Adele and Naomi Azzopardi. We are very appreciative of all the efforts of our younger members in organising our social and sporting activities.

Many of our members are also active in other Scouting appointments in Groups and the Region. Some members provided support to the Region Jamborette and to Dragonskin.

Congratulations to our members who were recognised in the 2017 Good Service Awards. Secretary Jeanie Wood was awarded the Silver Kangaroo, Treasurer Evelyn Wilson the Distinguished Service Award, Val Lockman the Meritorious Service Award and Jono Sharoff the Special Service Award.

Our webpage continues to be hosted by the Cumberland Gang Show Site and can be found at www.fellowship.gangshow.asn.au.

Special thanks to my fellow members of the Executive: Secretary Jeanie Wood, Treasurer Evelyn Wilson, Vice President Steve Munro and Activities Coordinator Michael Lockman. 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 2018-2019.

Lyall Wood

Chairperson - Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship



THE SCOUT PRAYER

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

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



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