



THE
ADVENTURE
BEGINS

Scouts Australia, NSW
Greater Western Sydney Region
73rd Annual Report
April 2019 - March 2020



Scouts
NSW

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

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

Hawkesbury District

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

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
1st Rouse Hill 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
Castle Hill (Coptic) Scout Group
West Pennant Hills Valley Scout Group

Holroyd District

1st Granville Scout Group
1st Greystanes 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 Winston Hills Scout Group
2nd Northmead Scout Group
Kings Langley Rover Crew
Western Sydney (BLIA) Scout Group

Penrith City District

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

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 2019-2020

REGION PRESIDENT	Ross Grove
REGION CHAIRPERSON	Debbie Howlett
REGION TREASURER	Greg Brown / Eleanore Smid
REGION COMMISSIONER	David Stopps JP
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	Geoff Henderson
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	Tony Dent
REGION OFFICE ASSISTANTS	Kim Harris & Wendy Dimmock

Region Commissioners

RC JOEY SCOUTS	Brian Zarth / Gabie Thompson
RC CUB SCOUTS	Gabie Thompson
RC SCOUTS	Tracey Stopps
RC VENTURER SCOUTS	Brian Nelson
RC ROVERS	David Twist / David Bannon
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	Steve Wallace
DC HAWKESBURY	Phil Heinrich
DC HILLS	Terry Brooke
DC HOLROYD	Ron Brown
DC PARRAMATTA	Tracey Hansford
DC PENRITH CITY	Steve Wallace

Region Patrons

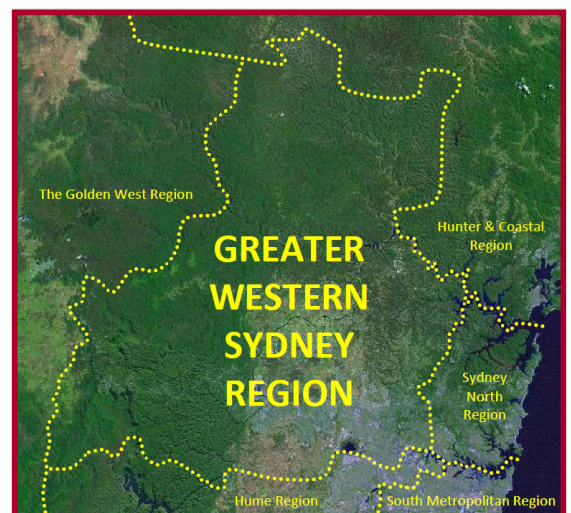
Julie Owens MP
Federal Member for Parramatta

Susan Templeman MP
Federal Member for Macquarie

Ray Williams MP
State Member for Castle Hill

CONTENTS

Minutes from 2019 Annual General Meeting	4
Region Commissioner	6
Region Chairperson	7
Region Office	7
Deputy Region Commissioner - Development	8
Deputy Region Commissioner - Youth Program	9
Region Financial Report	10
Section Reports	
Joey Scouts	11
Cub Scouts	12
Scouts	14
Venturer Scouts	16
Rovers	17
2019 Adult Recognition Awards	19
Adult Training & Development Report	21
Communications & PR Report	22
International Report	22
Member Support Report	22
Activities Report	24
Caving	23
Cumberland Gang Show	26
Radio, Science & Technology	27
District Reports	
Blacktown	28
Blue Mountains	29
Hawkesbury	30
Hills	31
Holroyd	32
Parramatta	33
Penrith City	35
Scout Fellowships Reports	
Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship	36
Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship	36
Hawkesbury Black Horse Scout Fellowship	37
Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship	37
Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship	38



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 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Minutes of the 72nd Annual Report Presentation of the Region Council held at Bundilla Scout Camp on Sunday 2nd June, 2019 commencing at 3.00pm following a Queen’s Scout Award Presentation.

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

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

WELCOME: To those present by Mr Ross Grove, Region President.

ALAN OVERTON AM HISTORY - Read by Tricia Shaw - Honorary Commissioner

2019 AWARD RECIPIENT: Peter Nickl OAM

CITATION: Read by Suzanne Cornell (2018 Award Recipient)

PRESENTATION OF AWARD: Deborah Howlett

SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTATION - By Tony Dent

Andrew Thompson - Crew Advisor

Anne Thompson - 25 Years Service

APOLOGIES - Read by Ayla Sloan - Rover

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting of the Region Council held on Sunday, 27th May, 2018 were circulated in the Annual Report and adopted.

MOVED: Peter Stieme SECONDED: Tracey Stopps

2. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial Statement

Presented by Greg Brown - Region Treasurer

Annual Report

Presented by David Stopps - 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

Terry Brooke, District Commissioner - Hills District

ADDRESS BY:

COUNCELLOR ALAN HASELDON, Deputy Mayor, representing The Hills Shire Mayor, Dr. Michelle Byrne

MR PHIL CRUTCHLEY, Deputy Chair, 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 Craig Kennedy

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF REGION EXECUTIVE

Mr Peter Stieme	Mr Lyall Wood AM RFD	Mr Paul Roach	Mr Glenn Duncan
Mrs Patricia Shaw	Mr Ken Barnes	Mr Michael Majors	Mr Tim Gray
Mrs Pamela Garske	Mr Peter Nickl OAM	Mr Craig Kennedy	

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MRS PAMELA GARSKEMINUTE TAKER
 MR PETER NICKL OAMREGION COMMISSIONER INTERNATIONAL
 MR TIM GRAYREGION ROVER COUNCIL CHAIR
 MRS PATRICIA SHAWEXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

MR PETER STIEMEDELEGATE PINNAROO SCOUT FELLOWSHIP
 MR LYALL WOOD AM RFDDELEGATE CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW FELLOWSHIP
 AND CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW
 MR PAUL ROACHDELEGATE BLUE MOUNTAINS SCOUT FELLOWSHIP
 VACANTDELEGATE WARATAH ACTIVITY SCOUT FELLOWSHIP
 VACANTDELEGATE HAWKESBURY BLACK HORSE SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

MR MICHAEL MAJOORSDELEGATE PARRAMATTA DISTRICT
 MR GLENN DUNCANDELEGATE PENRITH DISTRICT
 MR CRAIG KENNEDYDELEGATE BLACKTOWN DISTRICT
 MR PAUL ROACHDELEGATE BLUE MOUNTAINS DISTRICT
 VACANTDELEGATE HAWKESBURY DISTRICT
 VACANTDELEGATE HILLS DISTRICT
 VACANTDELEGATE HOLROYD DISTRICT

DELEGATES TO NSW STATE COUNCIL

THE REGION COMMISSIONER	THE REGION PRESIDENT	MR PETER STIEME
THE REGION CHAIRPERSON	MR CRAIG KENNEDY	

ELECTION OF CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW MANAGEMENT BOARD

DR ROBERT LANGPRODUCER/DIRECTOR
 MR LYALL WOOD AM RFDCHAIRMAN
 MR NEVILLE HENDERSON OAMDEPUTY CHAIRMAN & ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR
 DR JEANIE WOODSECRETARY
 MR PAUL THOMPSONFINANCE DIRECTOR/TREASURER
 MR MATTHEW THOMPSONMUSICAL DIRECTOR
 MR TRISTAN HORNSTRAPRODUCTION DIRECTOR
 MR PETER LEETECHNICAL DIRECTOR
 MRS JENNY WARDELLWELFARE DIRECTOR
 DR KARINA WARDLEMARKETING DIRECTOR

MOVED: Tony Dent SECONDED: Ann Pounder

4. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

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

MOVED: Tony Dent **SECONDED:** Terry Brooke

5. ADDRESS BY Mr Neville Tomkins OAM, Chief Commissioner of Scouts NSW

Challenge to recruit/retain adult leaders
 6% growth in youth members in 2018, however leadership numbers need to be better
 New Youth Program being introduced.
 Youth safety.

6. Mr Ross Grove thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 4.09pm followed by afternoon tea provided by GUMNUT PATISSERIE and prepared by PINNAROO SCOUT FELLOWSHIP.

REGION COMMISSIONER

It gives me great pleasure to present the 73rd Annual Report of Greater Western Sydney Region. This is my second report as your Region Commissioner.

Our Region consists of 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.

The New Youth Program is slowly being rolled out to our groups, with around 45% transitioned so far – still a fair way to go.

I appointed Gabie Thompson as our Region Commissioner for both Joeys and Cub Scouts after deciding to combine these two roles to try and help the linking of Joeys to Cubs and help them transition to the New Youth Program.

We were not directly hurt by the drought, except for water restrictions, but we all know someone that has been affected by the drought.

The bushfires of this season hurt so many of our organisation. They also affected the way things were done. We had to cancel hikes and camping for so many. I would like to thank Mark Fell, our RC Activities, for keeping a watchful eye over all our activities and still trying to find ways for every one to run in a safe manner. A big thank you to Mark.

The bush fires also affected our NSW State Cuboree that had to be cancelled. A big BRAVO to the groups that with the approval of myself and Mark still found ways to have a camp in January for their Cubs.

Then the worst happened, COVID-19. One of the hardest decisions I have ever had to make was when I called Dr Rob Lang, Producer/Director of our Gang Show to discuss the decision to cancel the show for 2020. Dr Rob was understandably very disappointed but supportive of this decision.

COVID-19 affected us all. Not one person in our Region got away from this one. I was lucky that I had Geoff Henderson by my side. Geoff took up the reigns on this one and communicated between Region and State in regards to how we should deal with the restrictions.

Through times like these it shows how resilient scouts are. Leaders have learnt how to use Zoom, MS Teams and Skype; to run online camps, section meetings, award presentations and all types of activities. As things are changing and the return to face to face Scouting outdoors only at the moment is allowed, we have to start and think about the weekly meetings and how we stay safe to avoid a second wave.

During this year GWS like all regions have lost some numbers and 2 groups have closed their doors, but in saying that, some groups have opened new units – especially in the Joeys and Venturer sections.

I cannot finish without mentioning a few people in our Region.

Kim Harris was the back bone of our Region office for 10 years, and decided to step down from her role as Region Office Manager in March 2020. Wendy Dimmock has stepped into this role and has quickly picked up on all the jobs that need to be done. Thank you to both of them.

Anne Thompson does a great job editing our Region Bulletin every month. Thanks Anne and sorry for always being so late with my report!

Thanks also to Debbie Howlett, our Region Chairperson who tries so hard to keep me in line and last but not least to Neville Henderson for still being there for advice when I need it.

Finally, thanks to my deputies, Geoff Henderson and Tony Dent for the assistance they give me to ensure the region runs so smoothly.

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

David Stopps JP
Region Commissioner



REGION CHAIRPERSON



Another year has come and gone, and to think of all the exciting Scouting adventures and challenges that have occurred both within GWS and beyond.

Our Region has encountered drought and bushfire over the last 12 months, let alone the current COVID-19 crisis; and we as Scouting members have met all these external threats with gusto and bravado! I am proud to say I am the Region Chairperson of such a progressive and developing Region, where we have met and exceeded our membership growth and embracing the new Youth program within our Groups in 2019.

We are fortunate to be under the leadership of an experienced team with David Stopps at the helm as Region Commissioner and his accomplished Region team implementing great programs and activities cascading up from each Group, District to Region and beyond.

Whilst we are currently experiencing many new hurdles in 2020, to the way we do Scouting everyday, this is something our Region can conquer and overcome!

Remember:

“One Scout can make all the difference, but together we at GWS can rock the world”

– lets go forth and make our mark if not globally, at least within NSW!!

Yours in Scouting

Debbie Howlett
Region Chairperson

REGION OFFICE

In March, the Region Office said farewell and good luck to Kim Harris after her 10 years of service. Kim was lucky to secure a job closer to home. We miss Kim’s wealth of knowledge accumulated over so many years.

I have big shoes to fill. I am doing my best to get my head around the many and varied tasks involved. I thank you all for your patience and to COVID-19 for a few extra hours!

At our Adult Recognition Award Dinner in October 2019 at Wentworthville Leagues Club we celebrated the services of our 96 awardees and was attended by 230 members.

With the fantastic assistance of Neville Henderson we have submitted 95 citations for a 2020 Adult Recognition Award. We are looking forward to the possibility of our annual Adult Recognition Award Dinner hopefully in October or later in 2020.

The Events System EMS for Activities is working extremely well and has helped with the processing and recording of participants. The online E1’s and payments function (thank you Matt Thompson for these additions) will further streamline the completing of accepted participants for the coordinators of the Events earlier.

2020 to date has been a challenge for us all and unfortunately we have had to cancel and refund participants for more events than actually were able to go ahead.

I look forward to seeing many of you upon our return to normal activities.

Wendy Dimmock
Region Office Manager



DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER - DEVELOPMENT



I ended my report last year by calling 2019, the Year to Support. A year in which we would increase our focus on supporting Groups.

After an extensive recruitment process, we were fortunate in bringing Bill Barnes into the team as Region Development Officer for Greater Western Sydney. This role has specifically focused on engaging Schools and Community Groups to support recruitment of Youth and Leaders across our Region. As a paid role, we are pleased to have the support of NSW Branch in funding this critical position to support our Groups.

Having a dedicated recruitment office has allowed us the opportunity to get out and about in the community, meeting with schools, community groups and to post signage on fences and noticeboards across the Region.

For those schools who were not open to visits from Scouting in the region, a number of other options were presented, such as a flyer drop or newsletter advert, with an additional 30 schools accepting newsletter advertising and more than 7,000 flyers distributed to schools alone.

Working alongside the State Office marketing team, the RDO created an activity and information flyer (in the form of a 'colouring-in' activity placemat). These were distributed to restaurants with a family focus, with more than half the initial allocation of 10,000 distributed in the first month.

Bill has also been available to directly support Groups, through the distribution of Bunnings signs, delivery of Region promotional resources and hosting LeaderBuild sessions.

In 2019/20, we have maintained our focus on our two key areas, 1) Growth in Youth membership; and 2) Growth in Leader membership. As you can see, our strategy has not changed in GWS.



Events Held
7



Signage Posted
75



Students Visited
7,500








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 once again in Greater Western Sydney, and I wanted to thank everyone for making Scouting a better organisation.

Lastly, I would say thanks to the many leaders that take the time so share their thoughts with me on how we can get better as a Region. Often, leaders email me or chat with me about their ideas and I am always happy to take feedback. The more ideas that are shared, the more chance we can solve some of our challenges.

Yours in Scouting

Geoff (Beagle) Henderson

Deputy Region Commissioner (Development)

DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER - YOUTH PROGRAM

The Scouting year has continued the Journey for our Region into the New Youth Program.

We started with 5 Pioneer Groups and 6 transitioned Groups, and we have now reached 56% of our Groups that have either moved into the New Program or have applied for the transition training.



We still have 18 months for the rest of the Region to move into this exciting program structure, that emphasises the Youth Lead, Adult Supported model and takes us back into line with the World Scouting methods.

We have also supported the outgoing Program for those Groups who are still to make the move, and still making the Peak Awards the personal challenge that the youth wish to achieve.

With more interest in the program our youth have expanded the activities that can be participated in, and our Region Activities team has made great efforts to move with the need to support the youth and the training of our Leaders to fulfill the needs of the program.

Tony Dent

Deputy Region Commissioner (Youth Program)

REGION 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 2020

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	Administration		
	<i>Income</i>		
6,069	Saleable Items Income	2,009	1,200
200	Donation	500	0
4	Interest - Bank	-37	0
48	Interest Received	67	0
7,755	Awards Dinner Fees	9,186	9,000
1,052	Administration Fees	6	0
391	Sundry Income	193	0
<u>15,518</u>		<u>11,924</u>	<u>10,200</u>
	<i>Expenditure</i>	2,736	0
56,909	Salaries and On Costs	59,410	56,450
4,316	Awards, Badges & Scarves	2,805	1,400
	Membership Fees	5,481	0
5,441	Computer Expenses	2,462	1,975
8,199	Depreciation	0	0
	Equipment Rental	0	2,520
3,562	Insurance	0	0
8,088	Meeting/Award Dinner Expenses, net of receipts	11,493	10,100
1,437	Postage	512	1,800
1,705	Printing & Stationery	2,153	2,400
	Repairs & Maintenance	0	700
-32	Saleable Items Cost	26	600
416	Security of Premises	244	1,440
3,660	Professional Fees		
1,332	Telephone	1,288	1,440
711	Sundry Expense	1,196	665
<u>95,745</u>		<u>87,070</u>	<u>81,490</u>
<u>-80,227</u>	Net Administration Cost	<u>-75,146</u>	<u>-71,290</u>
<u>-1,756</u>	Development & Promotion	<u>-4,732</u>	<u>-6,650</u>
	Camps & Activity Centres		
<u>-4,164</u>	Bundilla	<u>9,822</u>	<u>-20,085</u>
<u>-4,164</u>		<u>9,822</u>	<u>-20,085</u>
	Scouting Activities		
183	RC Section - Joeyes	1,199	-758
13,752	RC Section - Cubs	-6,177	1,999
426	RC Section - Scouts	9,701	1,246
686	RC Section - Venturers	219	927
-7	RC Section - Rovers	-84	-336
7,209	RC Section - Activities	4,091	2,173
-1,337	RC Section - Others	-3,592	-2,088
	International Section	0	-168
8,518	Gang Show	32,673	26,569
<u>-2,020</u>	Districts	<u>-176</u>	<u>-2,352</u>
<u>27,410</u>		<u>37,854</u>	<u>27,212</u>
<u>4,435</u>	Leader Training	<u>245</u>	<u>-1,200</u>
<u>25</u>	Property	<u>-5,748</u>	<u>-974</u>
<u>-54,277</u>	Net Region Cost of Operation	<u>-37,705</u>	<u>-72,987</u>

SECTION REPORTS

JOEY SCOUTS

What a wonderful year 2019-2020 was for Joey Scouts in Greater Western Sydney Region.

In June the State Konara was held at Glenrock Scout Camp in Newcastle. The State Konara is an event for Joey Leaders and those supporting the Joey section from right across NSW. The weekend was full of activities, sharing ideas and programs, training, and the opportunity to build friendships and support groups. GWS Region had a good turnout with all who attended having a great time!

Joey Scouts participated again in the Cumberland Gang Show's Comet Cast. It was great to see so many Joeys involved in this year's show '50 Years Together', being supported by so many Joey Scouts sitting in the audience. The comet cast definitely did leave an awesome impression on the audience.

The 2019 Joey Fun Day "All Aboard" was well attended this year with the event being held at Model Park Railway, Luddenham Park and was well supported by the volunteers of the Sydney Society of Model Engineers, who provided the Joeys with the opportunity for model train rides, demonstration of working steam engines and operating the slot cars. It was a fabulous day which was also supported by the Region Activities teams, Science team, Gang Show, Cubs, and bases run by the Districts. We even had a visit from Kym, the Scout mascot, who took a ride on the train. Once again Outback Steakhouse Penrith provided lunch for the Joeys and helpers. When it was time to finish up in the afternoon, it was very hard to get some of the Joeys to go home as they had such a fantastic time. Thank you goes to Magpie (Brian Zarth) and to all involved in making the event such a success.

In October, the Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship, together with the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club, hosted the JOTA event for Cubs and Joeys of the Region. Many Joeys attended the event, learning how radio works and talking to other Scouts from around the world. They had a wonderful time. The Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club were impressed with the well behaved and enthusiastic Joeys and Cubs that attended. Well done to all!

Promise Challenge Badge

1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

**1st Balcombe Heights**

Ryan Lessells

1st Cambridge Park

Oliver Kilkeary

Louis Rhodes

1st Carlingford

Olivia Lewin

Denith Wijesinghe

1st Dural

Sam Waterson

1st Ermington

Callum Hawken

1st Hawkesbury

Emma Kintominas

1st North Rocks

Phoebe Duan

Mila Ke

Jeremy Li

Charlie Qian

Paul Robertson

Andy Wu

Alicia Xue

Yufei Zhu

1st Oakville

Cooper Mitchell

Benjamin Scholz

Anna Wilkinson

1st Toongabbie

Tiffany Gale

1st Winston Hills

Alana Kokay

The annual Joey/Cub Fun Day on the Water was held again in March. Due to the wet weather, the decision was made early in the day that the event would only run for two hours. The participant numbers were much lower than previous years, however the Joeys did not mind getting wet and were very keen to get out on the water. Thanks to Tracey Hansford and Ben Gross, together with assistance of the Region Activity Team and District Joey leaders for pulling this event together.

A great big Hop, Hop, Hop to all Joey Leaders, Youth Helpers and supporters in the Joey section in GWS. Your ideas, imagination and time dedicated to Scouting, week in and week out is what keeps the Joeys engaged.

Thank you to the GWS Joey Scout Region Team: Leonie Plummer (Parramatta), Jodie Shaw (Penrith/Blue Mountains), Alice Gravina (Hills), Valerie Lockman (Blacktown/Holroyd) and Caroline Watts (Hawkesbury). And an extra special thank you to our Region Joey Leader, Magpie (Brain Zarth) for his continuous support and tireless efforts towards the success of Joeys in GWS. His dedication to Joeys in GWS is to be commended. BRAVOOO!

Yours in Scouting

Gabie Thompson (Darzee)

Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)

CUB SCOUTS

The 2019 – 2020 year began in a spectacular way for GWS Region Cubs when the inaugural **GWS Region Cuborette** ‘Around the World’ was held on the first weekend in April at Camp Ku-Ring-Gai, located on the Hawkesbury. The event was the idea of the Region Cub Youth Council and proved to be extremely popular with a total of 465 people in attendance. This was made up of 307 Cubs, 27 Youth Leaders (Scouts and Venturers), supported by 131 Leaders and Parents. The Group with the highest attendees was 1st Balcombe Heights and the District with the highest attendees was Parramatta. Well done!



The event was an enormous success, thanks to the Young Service Leaders (Scouts and Venturers), Leaders (those that assisted with the activities and those that assisted with camping) and especially to the organising team that worked tirelessly in pulling the event together. The assistance of the Region Activities Team was especially appreciated giving Cubs the opportunity to experience Rock Climbing, Canoeing, Science and Technology, and International.

The Region Cub Youth Council met on Saturday night and they voted for the Cuborette to be an annual event. They voted on the following awards: Best Activity Base: Water/Canoe Base, Best Gateway: Penrith City (Pack 3). Congratulations to the winners!

I would like to thank the whole Region (there are too many to mention here), that pulled together to assist the Cub section with the event, in particular Steve Wallace who worked many tiresome hours on the registrations and administration. Fantastic effort!

In May 2019, the Cub Region team ran a **Youth Helpers Course**, designed for Scouts and Venturers that are assisting Leaders in the Joey and Cub sections. This year we had 14 participants on the course. I would like to thank Damon Love - Region Leader for Venturers, for his assistance in running the course.

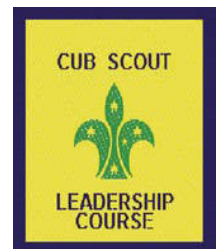


The **Region Palaver** ‘Outdoor Adventures’ was held at Bundilla

on 1 June. This year we had 30 participants. We tried something a little different, we had a number of guest speakers presenting many topics of interest, including: David Spear – NSW Cuboree, Tony Dent - New Youth Program, Cassie Rec – Adult Training & Development, Mark Fell - Adventurous Activities, Matt Thompson – GWS Event Management System and Mel Dimmock – CareMonkey. We also had Jeff Hook and Carol Cope from the State training team run sessions on program planning. Our thanks to all involved, a great day was had by all participants.

The July school holidays saw the production of **Cumberland Gang Show**. This year marked the 50th Anniversary of the show. We have so many talented Cubs involved in the show each and every year and this year was no exception. A fantastic production by all involved!

This year we increased the number of **Cub Scout Leadership Courses** held to three. This course is to assist Cubs to learn and develop leadership skills to assist them as Sixers or Unit Leaders. Traditionally, the Cub Scout Leadership courses have been extremely popular and oversubscribed. By holding more courses throughout the year, we ensured more Cubs had the opportunity to attend with less Cubs on each course resulting in a more productive course. Thanks to Tricia Shaw and the members of Pinnaroo Fellowship, to Anne & Paul Thompson and Peter and Lesley Tamsett for assisting with catering. Greatly appreciated!



On World Scout Day, 1st August, the **Adult Recognition Awards** were announced. This year, 19 Leaders in the Cub section received awards. It is wonderful to see these well-deserving leaders being recognised for their hard work and dedication to Scouting.

The Region **JOTA** activity in October, held at Glenbrook in the Blue Mountains, was well supported with 43 Cubs attending from across the Region. A great big thank you to the Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship and the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club for hosting the event.

NSW Cuboree 2020 was to be held in January 2020. Unfortunately, due to the devastating bushfires, the event was cancelled late in December. Cuboree 2020 was promising to be bigger and better than ever before with more people, more activities, more challenges, more friends and more fun! Promotion of the event in GWS began at the Region Cuborette. This was followed by a roadshow of presentations at various locations across the Region and at Regions events such

as Palavar and Jamborette. The result of the promotion campaign was that GWS Region had a record number of registered attendees.



In preparation for the Cuboree, the Region held two **Shakedown camps**, one in October with 273 people attending and the other in November with 246 people attending. The camps are an opportunity for Cubs and Leaders to come together in their Cuboree Mega Units, to have a practice camp. The Camps were supported by Scouts and Venturers that were attending Cuboree.

I sincerely thank all the dedicated Leaders, Rovers, Ventures, Scouts, Fellowship and Parents from within GWS who worked hard planning the event, many putting in 12-24 months of hard work. I am sure that if it had gone ahead, that our Cubs would have experienced the best time of their lives!

The **Annual Joey/Cub Fun Day on the Water** was held on a rather wet day in March. Due to the wet weather, participant numbers were much lower than previous years. Regardless of the weather, most Cubs (and most of the Leaders and Parents) did not mind getting wet and were very keen to carry on. The decision was made early in the day that the event would only run through to 11am as the forecast for the afternoon was for storms. This ensured that the Cubs had an hour doing land activities followed by an hour on the water. Thanks to the Region Activity Team for their ongoing support of the Cub section.

I would like to congratulate the 36 Cub Scouts who have achieved the peak award, the **Grey Wolf Award**, over the past twelve months. Their achievements are to be commended. I am sure that without the work of dedicated Cub Leaders behind them, these achievements would not be possible. One, two, three WOOF!

The **Region Cub Youth Council** met three times during the year. I thank all the Cubs for sharing their ideas, providing their honest feedback, and for their enthusiasm with the Region Seonee team.

The **(New) Youth Program** continues to be rolled out across the State and the Region. It is encouraging to see Cubs and Cub Leaders embracing the changes and taking on new challenges.

In mid-March 2020, Scouting would again be affected by events outside of our control. A worldwide pandemic was declared with the outbreak of the deadly disease COVID-19. With social distancing and self-isolation rules put in place, this would see a change to how we

deliver the Scouting program. Scouts took to the internet with **Scouting@Home** and virtual Scout halls. The imagination and creativity of the Cubs and Leaders is encouraging. You are all to be applauded for adapting to the situation.

I would like to thank all the Cub Leaders in GWS Region for their dedication and commitment to Scouting and to the Cub section, and for doing such a great job over the past year. I would also like to thank the Region Seonee Team: Andrew Selmes, Robert Rigby, Jeff Hook, Michelle Mclean, Alice Gravina, Katie Vane and Phil Heinrich who have not only supported me throughout 2019-2020, they have also worked hard to support the Groups, Districts and Region activities and events throughout the year.

I look forward to a fantastic 2020-2021 Scouting year for Cubs!

Gabie Thompson (Darzee)
Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts)



Grey Wolf Awards

1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

1st Balcombe Heights

Erik Schwalbe

1st Blackheath

Alexander Fraser
Julia Robinson
Lillian Robinson
Leo Sirisisavath

1st Blaxland

Amaali Badra
Summer Norton
Nora Pilawa
Tavis Smith
Zoe Suthers

1st Cambridge Park

Alexander Mortensen-Hill

1st Carlingford

Indunil Mendis
Dylan Skinner
Xavier Stephens
Damien Yap

1st Dural

Lachlan Edwards

1st Greystanes

Drew Griffiths
Timothy Nicholas

West Pennant Hills Valley

Timothy Flower

1st Hawkesbury

Joshua Burton
Cailan Wright

1st Hazelbrook

Thomas Ellicott
Zach Grejsen

1st Kellyville

James Boxsell
James Dodds
Andrew Harper

1st Kings Langley

Matthew Finkbeiner
Tristan Roper

1st Nurragingy

Cameron Skinner
Thomas Valentine

1st Oakville

Alexander Chapman
Jacob Merryfull
Abigail Sinclair

1st South Penrith

Addison Hughes

2nd Northmead

Ben Atkinson
Zac Gale

SCOUTS

Well what a strange year we have had! Drought, fires and viruses! As we will feel the effects of all that has been happening it will be known as the year of cancellations.... With all our summer activities cancelled due to the horrendous bushfires it made it hard for scouts to complete their badgework. Also, a lot of groups have moved over to the new pathways scheme which was daunting for them. Lots of changes happened in the last year but true to form scouts just got on with the job and adapted to everything thrown at them. I commend all Scouts and leaders for their resilience throughout these trying times. BRAVO is not enough to express how you've handled the situations. You all deserve a medal!

Jamboreette

Luckily, we did not have to cancel Jamboreette in 2019!!

There were a lot of smiling people. We had great weather! Over 900 people attended over the weekend. I would like to thank everyone who helped deliver such a great event. It wouldn't run without you all. We had other regions join us too such as, Sydney North, South Coast and Tablelands, Hume and ACT. Our Jamboreette is becoming well known for its bases and the fun we all have!



I would like to thank the Leaders and Rovers from the bottom of my heart. You helped deliver another successful Jamboreette. BRAVO to you all!

I would like to also congratulate GWS Venturers for the bases they ran and working on the adventurous activities. The scouts could not experience these if it wasn't for you. BRAVO!

A special shout out to Chris from Westmead Venturers for running the disco. It is hard to run a disco for the scouts but he volunteered and delivered. I appreciate it wholeheartedly. Thank you so much!

Thank you to the Bringelly Rural Fire Brigade and St John First Aid for not only being there but running a base for us.

The Activity Team was awesome as usual! Thank you for supplying your expertise.



Congratulations to the Construction Base run by Paul (Trekker) from Hawkesbury for building structures that even I could climb!

My biggest thanks go to my team. Without you I would have to try to do this on my own. This event wouldn't happen without you.

Two people I really need to thank are Kim and Wendy for all their hard work leading up to the event and packing the packs for the groups.

Congratulations to 'Get Shreked' for winning best base. Sorry to 'The Stig' I misunderstood my notes.

Congratulations to 1st Balcombe Heights for winning Traditional Gateway for the 4th year running.

Congratulations to Penrith City District for winning Best Themed Gateway.

Congratulations also to 1st Glossodia as 'Scout's Choice' Gateway.





State Rally

The winners of Greater Western Sydney were:

- 1st – Patrol 333 – Penguins, 1st Blaxland
- 2nd – Patrol 359 – Drop Bears, 1st Ermington
- 3rd – Patrol 312 – Frill-necked Lizards, 2nd Castle Hill

Congratulations to all three patrols and to all those that participated. I hope you all had an amazing time and kept warm at night. Please tell the rest of your units/ troop how good a time you had and let’s get more Scouts there next year. Thank you to all the patrols from Greater Western Sydney as you all put in an enormous amount of effort and you were all a credit to yourselves and your leaders. BRAVO!

I would like to give a special THANK YOU to all the Venturers, Rovers and Leaders who designed, built and ran the bases – without you it would not have been such a success. Our bases were extremely popular with all the patrols. I would also like to give a huge THANK YOU to Robin Garrett and Steve Wallace for their support and dedication in the lead up and throughout the event. Again the whole team are amazing.

Australian Scout Medallions



Tegan Edwards	1st Dural
Max Coundrelis	2nd Northmead
Matthew Loveridge	2nd Baulkham Hills
Aaron Harmeling	2nd Castle Hill
Jasmine Rowe	1st Westmead
Isabella Leske	1st Kellyville
Evie Dean	2nd Northmead
Thomas Hinchcliff	2nd Northmead

I feel our numbers are down due to last year’s disasters but I’m hoping with the support of our leaders, the upcoming year will see the numbers increase. The last year has seen 8 Australian Scout Medallions being awarded to our scouts. Although some are still waiting on their actual medallion presentation due to the cancellation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The variety of leadership activities astounds me. Our scouts are starting to think outside the box which is a wonderful thing to see. BRAVO!!!

New Activities

With the cancellation of our Region Mindari Camp we held our first Mindari training day. It was a terribly hot 45 degree day at Bundilla, but it was attended by over 50 leaders, new and old, and troop councils. The feedback from the day showed that everyone seemed to enjoy the day and everyone took new ideas and knowledge away – even the Scouts! The consensus was to run another next year.

We ran a radio course for the 1st time this year. It was very successfully run over 3 weekends and was well attended by scouts with 10 attaining their Amateur Radio License. The plan is to run more of these weekends in the future.

There has been a successful Monopoly wide game run in Penrith where about 100 participants played throughout the Penrith area.



I would like to thank all the Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders and my faithful Advisors 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. BRAVO!!

Yours in Scouting

Tracey (Wiangi) Stopps
Region Commissioner (Scouts)



VENTURER SCOUTS

This year has been one of incredible contrasts; of consolidation and disruption.

The new units we reported on last year have continued to grow, we had strong representation at major events including Dragon Skin, Gang Show, Jamborette, Waratah, and World Scout Jamboree, and our courses have had strong attendance. But since November, bushfires, floods and a pandemic have threatened our viability. Nevertheless, membership numbers in GWS grew by nearly 20. We also had another strong year with 15 new Queen's Scouts.



Ewan Huthnance	1st Springwood
Cameron West	1st Glossodia
Benjamin McCormick	1st Blaxland
Gabrielle Milne	1st Oakville
Lauren Barnett	1st Ermington
James Miller	1st Castle Hill
Lachlan Alston	1st Castle Hill
Matthew Jeffries	2nd Baulkham Hills
Zoe Cowen	2nd Baulkham Hills
Hannah Leguier	1st Castle Hill
Imogen Parker-Hull	1st Castle Hill
Abigail Ewings	1st Kellyville
Hannah Kilvington	1st Kellyville
Lochlan Fraser	1st Erskine Park
Benjamin Favotto	1st Oakville

The bushfire season saw cancellation of all activities over summer. This included all outdoor activities, Cuboree, Roventure and Vertigo. Roventure was rescheduled but then cancelled again due to flooding of the campsite at Camp Ku-Ring-Gai - I Love a Sunburnt Country! COVID saw cancellation of Dragon Skin and social isolation has prevented all outdoor activities.

For operational reasons, we held Unit Management Course, and Environment and Initiative Activities early this year. This was amazing luck as we managed to



get all these squeezed into the gap between summer and isolation. Over 2019 and 2020, Initiative Courses had 55 attendees, Unit Management had 25 and Environment had 30. My team is currently working to put on a Leadership course at the end of August. We are preparing to use social distancing at the course with a range of video and teleconferencing to make sure the course proceeds. With luck we'll be able to run the course at Bundilla.

I would like to thank our outgoing members of the Region Venturer Council, Jack Hartley and Jesse Garofano. At our first Region Venturer Council meeting we elected Sharni Frank from 1st/2nd Merrylands and Finn Kennedy from 1st South Penrith to be this year's reps. Congratulations also to Finn who has been appointed to the State Youth Council.

I like to thank my team - Damon Love, Matthew Vella, Erica Dilworth, Chris Lummis and Andrew Cross in the leadership team, Jesse, Jack, Sharni and Finn as our youth representatives, and members of the Waratah Scout Activity Fellowship for making the Venturer youth program a success.

But the real thanks go to the front-line leaders who have been continuing to run a regular program under isolation. I see stories of the activities being run such as debates, Pictionary, Google Earth night, cake decoration, scavenger-at-home on Facebook and the new group chats. And we will always remember Anzac Day 2020. We are all looking forward to better times!

Brian Nelson

Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts)



ROVERS

The past year has been another exciting and eventful 12 months for the Rover Section. It has been great to see the variety of activities and opportunities that have been available to Rovers within our Region and also at State and National levels.

I would first like to recognise all the work David Twist has done in the role of Region Rover Commissioner over the last 12 years. He has seen a lot of transformation within the Rover section and has provided great advice and guidance to generations of Rovers. In respect to this, I would also like to welcome Dave Bannon into the role of Region Rover Commissioner, which was officially ratified at the end of this 2019-2020 period, and know he'll do a great job in this position.

Congratulations to Tim Gray and the year's executive team who have done commendable work within their roles, most notably, resolving any issues with region finances, supporting events and activities, as well as promoting relations between the crews and units across the region. It's been great to see the way in which you all have approached your roles and I'm sure the 2020-21 executive has learnt a lot from what you have achieved during this period.

Many Rovers have received recognition over the past year for their hard work and service within the movement through the earning of BP Awards, Wood Badges and a variety of other recognitions of Adult Service. Congratulations to all those who have received these well-earned achievements.

Throughout the year there also has been the continued introduction of the Youth Program across the region, with many undertaking weekend information sessions and implementing its key ideas into their weekly meetings. This has allowed the adoption of programming methods, a greater awareness of the badge pathways and a continued alignment with the Region's transition goals.

There have been numerous events that GWS Rovers have actively involved themselves in, many of which have been opportunities of service to the community and to other Scouting sections. Most notable of these have been the annual Dragon Skin, Jamborette and Waratah all of which saw many Rovers in attendance, both as part of organising teams and running activities. This year also saw the start of our Region Social nights, running on alternate months to our Region Rover

Councils. We have had the chance to participate in a variety of activities from trivia to painting, with many crews stepping up to the challenge of running an enjoyable night for the region. 1st/2nd Merryland Rover Crew also took up the challenge of running the annual GWS Moot, called 'Groovin' the Moot', up at Camp Ku-Ring-Gai, with Rovers from across the State in attendance for a great weekend.



2020 began with many GWS Rovers in attendance at CBR Moot, the 13th Asia-Pacific Region & 21st Australian Rover Moot, in Canberra. Despite the wide array of expeditions that were on offer, many were cancelled due to the unforeseen bushfire crisis. This led to the displacement of many international and interstate Rovers stuck in Sydney during the cancelled second phase of the Moot. The Post Rover Moot Activity was born as a result of this situation, with members of the NSW Rover Council organising the hosting of these Rovers at GWS' home of Bundilla, where Rovers from across NSW volunteering their times to keep our visitors fed and in accommodation whilst they made the most of their remaining time in Australia. This was a monumental effort by all those involved and I am sure that these efforts were much appreciated by our international and interstate Rovers.

Similarly, considering the danger of fires and floods at the beginning of 2020, the GWS Roventure was unfortunately postponed and only recently cancelled due to the current situation. However, we are aiming for its return in 2021, where it will be another great time

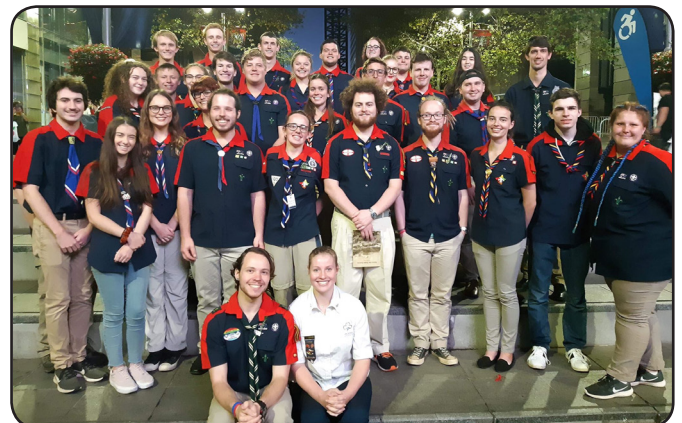


for both Rovers and Venturers. I should also mention the consistent effort undertaken by those Rovers across the region involved in the SES, their service is valuable to the community and truly representative of our motto of Service.

The Rovies was undoubtedly the highlight of February, involving a three course meal and the well-earned appreciation of both the serious and light-hearted nature of GWS Rovers. Benjamin Kuzma received the Gold Rovie. This award is presented to someone who has shown outstanding commitment to the Rover Section, embodying what a Rover should be whilst servicing themselves and their community and supporting fellow Rovers. To all those who received awards during this night, congratulations, it was well earned!

March saw the transition to Scouting@Home for the entire movement, however despite this, it's encouraging to see the way in which GWS Rovers have adapted to these challenges, seeing this as an opportunity to try something new. Myself and the 2020-2021 GWS Rover Executive look forward to continuing to encourage and support our region's Rovers however we can.

Damon Love
Region Rover Council Chair 2020-21



2019 ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS



SILVER KANGAROO – for Eminent Achievement and Exceptional Service

BARR, Frank William----- Honorary Leader (Region), Greater Western Sydney Region
 COPE, Carol Ann----- Region Commissioner (Members Support), Greater Western Sydney Region



SILVER KOALA – for Distinguished Service

GALE, John Stuart----- Rover Adviser, 2nd Baulkham Hills Rover Crew
 WARDLE, Aaron Christopher----- Honorary Commissioner (Region), Greater Western Sydney Region



SILVER WATTLE – for Outstanding Service

AQUILINA, John Joseph----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Glossodia Cub Pack
 DENT, Lisa Anne----- Group Leader, 1st Toongabbie Scout Group
 GREEN, Kylie Maree----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Joey Mob
 HENRY, Christopher John----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Scout Troop
 MCKINLEY, David John----- Region Leader (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region
 SELWOOD, Shane David----- Group Leader, 1st Winston Hills Scout Group
 SHAW, Mitchell Blake----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Cambridge Park Joey Mob
 STEWART, Clinton Todd----- District Scout Leader, Parramatta District
 STOPPS, Tracey Kim----- Region Commissioner (Scouts), Greater Western Sydney Region
 VELLA, Matthew Guy----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Venturer Unit
 WARDLE, Karina Michelle----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Joey Mob
 WEST, Timothy Gordon Stenning----- Scout Leader, 1st Hawkesbury Scout Troop
 WOOD, Robert Clifford----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Blacktown Venturer Unit



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD – for Excellent Service

BANNON, David Peter----- Rover Adviser, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Rover Crew
 BARNETT, Matthew George----- Group Treasurer, 1st Castle Hill Scout Group
 BONITZ, Tara Janine----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Cub Pack 'Zazu'
 CRUMP, Laura Kathleen----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Joey Mob
 ELLIOT, Rebecca Helene----- Adult Helper, 1st Hazelbrook Scout Group
 GRAVINA, Alice----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Joey Mob
 HALL, Bryan John----- Region Leader (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region
 HARRIS, Eric Clifford----- Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Troop
 HARRIS, Mathew Gordon----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Scout Troop
 HENDERSON, Geoffrey Robert----- Deputy Region Commissioner, Greater Western Sydney Region
 HODGE, Helen Louise----- Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Castle Hill Cub Pack 'Nackara'
 HOWLETT, Deborah Anne----- Region Chairman, Greater Western Sydney Region
 HUANG, Zeyun Jenny----- Cub Scout Leader, Western Sydney (BLIA) Cub Pack 'Parramatta'
 MACARTHUR, Anthony James----- Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Scout Troop
 ONG, Alexander Barong----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Cub Pack 'Alleena'
 PRINGLE, Rodney----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Cambridge Park Cub Pack 'Koala'
 RICHARDS, Brendan Charles----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Cub Pack 'Impeesa'
 STEPHENS, Zoe Ann----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Joey Mob
 TYLER, Joanne Louise----- Trainee Leader (Rover), 2nd Baulkham Hills Outdoor Rover Crew
 WADE, Donnalee----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Blacktown Cub Pack
 WHIDDON, Andrew Robert----- Assistant Scout Leader, 2nd Castle Hill Scout Troop



SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD – For Good Service

- AZZOPARDI, Naomi Elizabeth ----- Fellowship Member, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship
- BAKER, Orson Jack ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Northmead Cub Pack
- BENNETT, Grant Jeffrey ----- Group Leader, 1st Kings Langley Scout Group
- BLOW, Danielle ----- Adult Helper, 1st Carlingford Scout Group
- BORDLEY, Matthew Mark ----- Trainee Commissioner (Region), Greater Western Sydney Region
- BROWN, Adele Susan ----- Adult Helper, 1st Carlingford Scout Group
- CLASIE, Hannah ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Troop
- COOPER, Daniel Robert ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Scout Troop ‘Bartoo’
- COOPER, Emanuela Clementina ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Scout Troop ‘Bartoo’
- CRAVEN, Christopher David ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Cambridge Park Scout Troop
- DAVIS, Catherine Anne ----- Group Treasurer, 1st St Marys Scout Group
- DENT, Meglyn Charlotte ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Toongabbie Scout Troop
- DIMMOCK, Melanie Louise ----- Trainee Leader (Region), Greater Western Sydney Region
- GALE, Christopher Trent ----- Scout Leader, 1st Toongabbie Scout Troop
- GARDNER, Andrew James ----- Group Leader, 1st Blaxland Scout Group
- GIUSTI, Leo Jordan Burnett ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Parramatta Cub Pack
- HO, Sze King ----- Group Treasurer, 1st Carlingford Scout Group
- JERROW, Sharon Faye ----- Adult Helper, Cumberland Gang Show Helper Group
- JOHANSEN, Michael Karl ----- Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Scout Troop
- KRNEL, Lisa Jane ----- Group Treasurer, 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Group
- LEGUIER, Priscilla ----- Group Chairman, 1st Castle Hill Scout Group
- LOCKMAN, Katherine Mary ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Toongabbie Joey Mob
- LOCKMAN, Micheal David ----- Fellowship Member, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship
- MACKINTOSH, Stuart Lachlan ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Cub Pack ‘Impeesa’
- MCCREDDEN, Andrew Lesley ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Venturer Unit
- MERCIECA, Joshua Joseph ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Joey Mob ‘Python’
- MERCIECA, Merylese ----- Group Chairman, 1st Blaxland Scout Group
- MERCIECA, Rose Therese ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Joey Mob ‘Python’
- MILLER, Geraldine Joan Irene ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Joey Mob
- MILLER, Gillian Kate ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Cub Pack
- MORRIS, Heather ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Cub Pack ‘Kookaburra’
- MUNRO, Rachel Claire ----- Adult Helper, Cumberland Gang Show Helper Group
- NISKANEN, Markku ----- Group Secretary, 2nd Northmead Scout Group
- O’KEEFFE, James Joseph ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Scout Troop
- PAUL, Ryan Francis ----- Trainee Leader (Cub Scout), 1st/2nd Blacktown Cub Pack
- POLIS, Jonathan Mark ----- Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Scout Troop
- PRANTS, Matthew James ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s) Cub Pack
- REDMAN, Louise Anne ----- Group Treasurer, 1st Grose Vale Scout Group
- SHAW, Rebecca Joy ----- Adult Helper, Cumberland Gang Show Helper Group
- SLOAN, Ayla-Shannyn Maree ----- Trainee Leader (Scout), 1st Dural Scout Troop ‘Giwang’
- SMITH, Ross Arnold ----- Region Leader (Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region
- STAPLES, Benjamin Wayne ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st North Mt Druitt Cub Pack
- STATHAKIS, Anthony ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Hazelbrook Joey Mob
- STOWELL, Andrew ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Toongabbie Cub Pack
- TAYLOR, Mariell Elizabeth ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Dural Cub Pack
- THOMPSON, Andrew John ----- Rover Adviser, Blacktown Rover Crew
- UIDAM, Tim ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Cub Pack
- VANE, Kathryn Jane ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Cub Pack ‘Keego’
- VERWOERD, Peter ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Venturer Unit
- WHITE, Jessica Sandra ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Cambridge Park Joey Mob
- WORTHY, Cheryl Margaret ----- Adult Helper, 1st Carlingford Scout Group



ROVER SCOUT SERVICE AWARD - For exceptional and sustained Service to the Rover Section

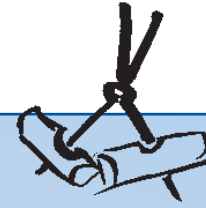
- WARD, Christopher Joseph ----- 2nd Castle Hill Rover Crew

ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

In the past 12 months GWS has hosted great training opportunities including Basic Outdoor Skills, Basic Practical Supplements, and Youth Program Upskilling. We have continued the push to bring training back to the region. Going forward we will continue to provide and promote training opportunities, some will be face to face, some will be online. Behind the scenes and out front presenting there are many who are working hard to bring training to those who need it. Thank you to all those who continue to make training a priority.

This year 20 Leaders within the Region were awarded the Wood Badge, signifying that they have completed their advanced training.

In September 2019 we celebrated the 100th year of the Wood Badge by holding a Gilwell Reunion at Bundilla. The event was well attended and provided a great opportunity for Leaders from across the region, visitors from other regions, and those returning to Bundilla to enjoy Scouting fellowship. Special thanks to the organising committee, led by Carol Cope.



Wood Badge Recipients April 2019 - March 2020

- Helen Anderson - 1st Oakville
- Veronica Brogden - 2nd Baulkham Hills
- Dianne Coveny-Garland - 1st Quakers Hill-Doonside
- Simon Edwards - 1st Dural
- Belinda Garden - 1st South Penrith
- Daniel Garden - 1st South Penrith
- Jacqueline Gross - 1st Rydalmere
- Paul Jefferies - Greater Western Sydney Region
- Jason LeGuier - 1st Castle Hill
- Anthony Macarthur - 1st North Rocks
- Gillian Miller - 1st Oakville
- Tony Milne - 1st Blaxland
- Tracey Priest - 1st Cambridge Park
- Luke Saunders - Greater Western Sydney Region
- Jodie Shaw - 1st Winston Hills
- Andrew Thompson - Blacktown Rover Crew
- Tim Uidam - 1st Balcombe Heights
- Elizabeth Vanderjagt - 1st South Penrith
- Kathryn Vane - 1st Blaxland
- Kai Xue - 1st North Rocks

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 (especially with the switchover to O365!)
- management of social media for Region pages & newly introduced 'Leaders and Supporters' facebook group
- design of a new Region A5 Flyer and DL Flyer with magnet to promote Scouting in our communities (with assistance from Geoff Henderson)
- design and printing of our Region Annual Report



It was great to see such a good turn up of youth and leaders to help promote Scouting at the many public displays and events throughout the Region during the year. Also, thanks to everyone who came along to support Cumberland Gang Show's 50th season, 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 International Team mounted an activity base at the Region Jamborette.

Unfortunately most scheduled events had been cancelled due to the current COVID19 lock down.

International events of interest occurring during the past twelve months as usual, as follows:

- Scout International Student Exchange Program both participating and home hospitality.
- Continuing assistance with Scouting in Vanuatu
- We had leaders visiting from Canada and Hong Kong

Although the past year has been challenging, I thank the members of the team for their continuous support.

In closing and on behalf of the International Team, I would like to thank David Stopps and all the office staff for their support and assistance over the past twelve months.

Peter Nickl OAM
Region Commissioner (International)

MEMBER SUPPORT

Our Greater Western Sydney Region Member Support Team have continued to provide assistance to Youth, Leaders and Parents through difficult circumstances.

Our roles include educating 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. More details about our Child Health and Safety measures can be found at www.nsw.scouts.com.au/about/child-health-safety

Our Youth Safe Advocates (YSA) also continue to support all members of the Association. Their assistance is available at major events as another means of ensuring the safety and protection of all our members and that their concerns are raised and handled in accordance with Branch policies.

The purpose of these Advocates is to take on a prominent role within the organisation by:



1. Becoming the 'on the ground' face of Scouts NSW Child Safety initiatives – particularly at large events;
2. Understanding and explaining Scouts NSW Child Protection policies and procedures;
3. Promoting Youth Safe Messaging throughout the organisation;
4. Achieving a high level of understanding of prevention and intervention of child abuse strategies;
5. Encouraging and enabling incident reporting.

To ensure that your YSA members have a clear understanding of their roles we have support processes in place, and they are responsible to the Child Protection Team and the Child Protection Officer.



Pre-appointment for these roles required e-learning from the Office of the Children's Guardian and face-to-face training from the Child Protection Officer.

Read more details about the Youth Safe Advocates role at www.nsw.scouts.com.au/about/child-health-safety/youth-safe-advocates

The Member Support Team can be contacted 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

Carol Cope
Region Commissioner (Member Support)
Youth Safe Advocate

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 cave systems. Some continue their learning experience, coming back as "team" members who help teach new cavers the ropes.

Last year we conducted two Bungonia workshops, two cave trips, and a Scout Caving Proficiency weekend.

Our trips last year were to Borenore Caves at Orange in March, where we explored the Tunnel cave, and to Timor Caves in November. Both of these trips were a great success. As Timor caves are horizontal, we offered it to people who had not yet learned abseiling, and everyone had a very enjoyable experience there. Some plucky Venturers went into the Mouse Trap and returned to tell the tale. In March 2020, we visited Wee Jasper and explored the Dip Series. Our Venturers went to Dog Leg, then we all went to the Gong cave.

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 Clinton Stewart. Many of our Venturer team have moved on to Rovers, and still come caving, taking on a stronger leadership role.

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

Meredith Stewart
Region Activity Leader (Caving)



ACTIVITIES



2019-2020 would certainly have to be considered as one of those more **“challenging”** times

Like many of us, I have organised activities over the years, only to be then cancelled at the last moment due to either wet weather, high winds, and even thunderstorms - but poor air quality due to extreme bush fires; followed by floods; and then the daddy of them all; COVID-19! We are certainly living in interesting times. And all this in basically the first few months of 2020.

However, we did have some great Region Activity events happening throughout the year, kicking off with the inaugural Cuborette, held up at Camp Ku-ring-Gai. It was a fabulous weekend with the Region Activities Team called up to run Canoeing, the Climbing Wall and the always popular Science Base. The cubs also enjoyed one of the best Movies Nights I have seen on a camp, with thanks to Karl Humphreys, and his array of “technical” equipment. The ever-popular Region Jamborette is always a big one for the Activities Team running the Flying Fox, Caving, Abseiling, Climbing Wall, and Science Base.

The Water Activities Team has continued to do what it does best with a number of canoeing workshops and trips over the year. For the more adventurous, we ran an overnight trip down Kangaroo Valley, including about a 10km night paddle, with just the starlight to guide us (...not quite celestial navigation). We did another trip from Wisemans Ferry and into the upper reaches of Webbs Creek, where we bush camped overnight. About halfway through the year, Tracey Hansford stepped down as our Water Activities Co-ordinator, after quite a few years in the role. While certainly not stepping away

from the Activities Team, we certainly thank Tracy for her canoeing expertise. We welcomed Ben Gross to the Team as our new Water Activities Leader. Ben is highly skilled in canoeing, has youth on his side, making him very popular with the youth and his peers alike.

We are also fortunate to have people like Keith Travers and John Van den Burg who have run several sailing days throughout the year, including 5-day workshops over the school holidays. With Region owning a number of sailing craft, of which some rarely see the water, this is certainly an area where we need to find some new skilled people with sailing experience.

Rock, not the music variety, is certainly one of our stronger activity bases within the Region.

Abseiling is always big on the calendar, particularly as it is a prerequisite to other rock activities including Caving and Canyoning. Big thank you to the team, headed up by Stuart Cowen and David McKinley, who have organized several workshops, covering from the basics, to the more advanced multi-pitched abseils, and vertical rescue techniques.



Our caving team is regarded as the most active in the State, under the watchful and skilful eye of Meredith Stewart. The annual weekend pilgrimage to Wee Jasper is certainly at the top of the list, along with trips to Bungonia, and lesser known caves systems, including Timor Caves, located in the Southern New England Region.

Canyoning has also been on the activity agenda with a number of trips throughout the year. Canyoning is one of those very special and unique activities, requiring a fairly high level of abseiling ability, particularly on “wet” rope. Thank you to Ross Smith and David McKinley, ably supported by Paul Davies, for the opportunity to experience some quite unique scenery, rarely seen by the general population.



And while still on the rope stuff, the State Climbing Wall continues to be as popular as ever, supporting numerous Groups throughout the year, on both scout and community-based events. Always a real crowd “magnet”.

Bush walking has always been popular within GWS Region. Apart from being truly blessed with so many places to hike; when we have people like Tristan Flores, leading the way, we can only go from strength to strength. Tristan has been instrumental in ensuring a wide range of hiking experiences, from those simple half and one day events, up to those more challenging multi-day hikes.

Our Fox Team lead by “always hanging off a rope” Quentin Napier, has run a number of Fox activities throughout the year, including the very popular “double hawser” setup, we do for the Jamborette. From a State level the real challenge we now face with the Flying Fox is putting together a new Scout Fox Policy, that will be in keeping with the latest in industry standards, and at the same time, be within the capabilities of what Regions, including GWS, can offer.

Our Science and Radio base continue to provide that “different angle” approach to what we can provide within the Region Activities. John Leahy continues to fascinate us all with some amazing hands on demonstrations in the world of chemistry, physics and electronics. Karl Humphreys has also inspired us all with his knowledge in radios and electronics and has continued to be a huge advocate of both JOTA & JOTI each year.



2019 was a huge year with Cumberland Gang Show, celebrating 50 years “TOGETHER”

A massive milestone, and certainly made me immensely proud, as part of the “Gang,” to be very much part of the “celebration!”

As I do every year, I must acknowledge and thank the whole Region Activities Team for their continuing effort over the last 12 months. They are what makes the activities really happen. I would like to also acknowledge our RC Mr David Stopps, and the continued support I have enjoyed from both David and the whole Region Council Team.

As I write this report, we are still very much in the clutches of COVID-19, which is certainly having a downturn effect on all Adventurous Activities. In years to come, we will read back on 2020 as “*that year*” and reflect on how we, as part of the Scouting community, came out of it. I do believe it will make us stronger, more resilient, and better able to deal with any situation that is thrown at us. ...and did I mention a whole lot more **FUN** to enjoy!

Mark Fell (Dingo)

Region Commissioner (Activities)

Assistant Technical Director (Cumberland Gang Show)

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW



2019 was our 50th season titled 50 Years Together. The season was very successful with a continuation of the new staging and technical enhancements. As in recent years, the show used 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.

Once again we had the Comet Cast with young 7 to 9 year old Joey Scouts, Cub Scouts and the Guiding equivalent performing in the first act. A special feature of our 50th season was the Legends Cast, a cast of former cast and crew members who performed in the second act. The penultimate item was very special. *A Poem – Here's to the Gang*, written and recited by our Producer/Director Dr Rob Lang, in his 40th year, followed by a musical item, *I'm One of the Gang*, sung by the cast and crew.

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. Several performances were full houses. More than 5,000 patrons attended our spectacular performances at Parramatta Riverside Theatre in the July school holidays. We were honoured by the attendance of both the Governor of New South Wales and the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia

The 50th Anniversary Committee, led by Meagan Thompson, coordinated all our merchandising and events to celebrate the special year. Major merchandising included specially designed shirts and



hoodies. Major events included the presentation of 400 special 50th scarves, edged with gold, to all the cast and crew. A 50th Birthday Party Picnic held for all past and present members of the Gang. A fun afternoon was enjoyed by all as they participated on a jumping castle, a giant slide, garden games, fairy floss, a CGS memorabilia display and a birthday cake. The special 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner was held in June at the Epping Club. Much time and effort was given to the writing and production of our commemorative book titled *It's The Moments, the 50 Year Story of Cumberland Gang Show 1970-2019*.

As in past years we rehearsed at Crestwood High School with two weekend camps at Pennant Hills and conducted all the ticket sales through the theatre box office including reduced prices for early purchases. Concentrated marketing continued to be focused towards scouting leaders, scouting sections and past members of the Gang.

The theme of the 2020 show is Rise Up. We were delighted to have more than 170 applicants audition for this season. Regrettably we made the decision in March, after just two rehearsals, to defer the season because of the coronavirus limitations.

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

17 members of the crew were recognised in the 2019 Good Service Awards for all their service to Scouting, including their service to Gang Show.

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

During the year we enjoyed **Chemistry nights** with 2nd Castle Hill, North Rocks and Winston Hills Joeys and Cubs, as well as Blaxland Scouts. We also had a **Light night** with Hazelbrook Joeys and Cubs and an **Arcs & Sparks** morning with BLIA Cubs at Parramatta.

A 'Liquid Nitrogen' evening with South Penrith Venturers and a '**Bug Off**' night with Murray Farm Joeys and Cubs were unfortunately called off due to Virus concerns.

This year as a response to the Coronavirus pandemic, I developed an activity around hand washing called 'Bug OFF'. The exciting aspect of this seemingly banal activity is fluorescence powder, which is normally invisible but glows under UV light. The powder is seeded around the hall on objects the scouts will touch, then the lights are turned off and the UV torch reveals the 'glow germs' on their hands. The Scouts attempt to wash it off but are unsuccessful. This leads to being shown a correct way to hand wash with soap or detergent with better results.

By the time I had developed a program, advertised it in the Bulletin, and accepted a booking by Murray Farm it was March. When it came time to put it into practice in late April, meetings had been postponed and the opportunity had passed by.

For the **GWS Jamborette**, this year, Karl Humphreys demonstrated forging mild steel rod, his propane fired furnace melting and casting aluminium, and spot welding technique. I challenged the Scouts to 'write' with sparks on thermal fax paper, electroplate their name in copper metal on strips of tin, and do quick calculations on a simple analog computer with the turn of a dial.



I also attended the **GWS Cuborette** at Camp Ku-Ring-Gai and the **Joey Fun day** at Model Farm Luddenham, where I had Scout helpers show the younger scouts how to fly Water and Pop rockets.

We had committed to supplying activities for the **NSW Cuborette** at Cataract Park. I had devised a model train layout and two remotely controlled cranes to load and unload containers. A second challenge involved fixed Lasers and targets at three metre height, and mirrors also on three meter sticks, to reflect the beam back to its sensor. Possible with one mirror, harder with two mirrors.

It was a turbulent time of developing activities by January, while preparing the exterior of my home and evacuating valuables before the approaching bushfires in December. *Fortunately* the wind changed direction and the house was spared; *unfortunately* the Cuborette was cancelled due to fire concerns.

The Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club at Glenbrook put on an excellent **JOTA** for the local scouts with HF and UHF Radios, Morse code decoding, Code wheel, and LED kit. I had to be in Armidale for a grandson's wedding that weekend, but I managed to fit in a visit to my Amateur Radio (and Scout Leader) mate, on his property in the hills around Tamworth. A number of his Scouts had camped for the weekend and used his home station to talk to other Scouts around Australia. They also gained some troubleshooting skills by fixing an old cassette radio.

Thanks to Karl Humphreys and Andy Jenkinson for their 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

Nothing has stopped our District in the past year, whether it be fire, flood or pandemic.

Our District Joeys participated in the Region Joey Fun Day “All Aboard” at Luddenham Model Park in September, the Joeys & Cubs participated in the State Campfire at Toongabbie Hall on 5th July and the Cubs held their annual Billy Cart Derby on Rooty Hill in August.

The District Scouts attended the Region Jamborette at Cataract Scout Park in June and 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 Venturer Units in the District continue to grow with both 1st Toongabbie and 2nd Kings Langley starting units during the year.

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

In Blacktown District, Scouts were at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Canberra and undertook 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 members from all sections and their Leaders participated in the march through the streets of Blacktown, they then enjoyed the festival activities with their families and promoted Scouting to the broader Blacktown community.

Following the merger of 1st Whalan Scout Group and 1st North Mt Druitt Scout Group in November 2018, the combined Group adopted the name 1st Nurragingy Scout Group to reflect their new beginning.

2nd Kings Langley Scout Group received significant funding for hall renovations and now have extra storage and a “State-of-the-art” commercial kitchen. This is largely thanks to a well working Group Committee with the parents and Leaders support.

1st Toongabbie Scout Group is a leader in introducing the New Youth Program – “The Adventure Begins” and has worked with District Groups to ensure our youth get the best they can out of Scouting with an emphasis on Youth Leading and Adults Supporting.

The 2019 Adult Recognition Awards were announced on 1st August and 16 of our Leaders received an award, well done to those Leaders;

Silver Wattle

- Lisa Dent, 1st Toongabbie Scout Group
- Kylie Green, 1st Kings Langley Joey Mob
- Matt Vella, 1st Kings Langley Venturer Unit
- Robert Wood, 1st/2nd Blacktown Venturer Unit

Meritorious Service Award

- Donna Wade, 1st/2nd Blacktown Cub Pack
- Brendan Richards, 1st Kings Langley Cub Pack ‘Impeesa’

Special Service Award

- Grant Bennett, 1st Kings Langley Scout Group
- Meglyn Dent, 1st Toongabbie Scout Troop
- Chris Gale, 1st Toongabbie Scout Troop
- Michael Johansen, 1st Kings Langley Scout Troop
- Katherine Lockman, 1st Toongabbie Joey Mob
- Stuart Mackintosh, 1st Kings Langley Cub Pack ‘Impeesa’
- Ryan Paul, 1st/2nd Blacktown Cub Pack
- Ben Staples, 1st North Mt Druitt Cub Pack
- Andrew Stowell, 1st Toongabbie Cub Pack
- Andrew Thompson, Blacktown Rover Crew

The Scouting year ended with our Cubs getting ready to attend the Cuboree in January 2020 at Cataract Scout Park; unfortunately the summer fire season was extreme and resulted in the Cuboree being cancelled, leaving our Cubs and Leaders disappointed as they had worked hard in preparing with shakedown camps and getting gear sorted, fortunately some Groups still managed to participate in activities to make up some of their disappointment, well done!

No sooner had we started back for the year, we were confronted with heavy rain in February stopping some outdoor events and finally the COVID-19 shutdown when our Groups had to close activities in the halls. Fortunately with aid of modern technology, some were able to move to online Scouting at Home, a steep learning curve for all at this time. Again Bravo for thinking outside the box.

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 in our District and to Elena Connor and Eleanore Smid from 1st/2nd Blacktown who both moved to Region roles following many years

of dedicated service to their Group. I would also like to thank Valerie Lockman, Michelle McLean, Michael Gibbs 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.

Let's make 2020/21 a bigger and more progressive year for Blacktown District.

Ross Howlett
District Commissioner

BLUE MOUNTAINS

2019/2020 started out as a great year for the district, and while the last few months have been a challenge due to Bushfires, Floods and COVID-19, the district continues to be strong and deliver great programs for our members.

We saw several great district activities throughout the year with our Cubs visiting both Megalong Valley Farm and Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens, as well a district Pack Holiday where the Cubs had a lot of fun. Our Scouts got up to their usual antics with Leadership Courses, District Camp (won by 1st Springwood) and the Nowra Holiday camp all key activities in the program. Our Venturer Scouts participated in several region activities including Roventure, Initiative Course, and of course Waratah where 1st Blaxland took out the competition for the second year running. The Rovers at Blaxland "Kalangadoo" ran an amazing number of activities throughout the year for the crew as well as attending Moots, Balls and other Region and State Activities. Our Joeys attended the Joey Fun Day at the Model Railway and have been doing a number of great mob activities.

The district is also supported by the Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship and we are very appreciative of all the support they give to Scouting.



Our groups at 1st Blaxland, 1st Springwood, 1st Hazelbrook and 1st Blackheath continue to grow and thrive, and this is a testament to all our leaders. Despite only being in this role for a little over a year, I continue to be impressed by the commitment and dedication that all our leaders show to their sections and groups. The biggest challenge that continues to confront most of our groups is a severe lack of leaders. Due to a lack of leaders, we have had to recess the Joey Mob at 1st Springwood for the time being.

Throughout the year we have had a number of changes in the District Team, with our District Cub Scout Leader, Mel Harding and our District Scout Leader, Richard Chin deciding to take some time out to spend more time with their families. We have been very lucky to welcome Katie Vane and Glenda Webb to take up these roles and they have been doing a fantastic job. We also welcomed Jodie Shaw as our District Joey Scout Leader and Rose Mercieca as our Assistant District Commissioner to the team.

Moving forward into 2020/2021, the key projects for our district are to continue to improve our district communication channels, introduce district-wide activities and to continue to establish support for our sections and groups. We are also hoping to move to the new Scout Program once we receive the required training from the state team. We have established our facebook page to promote our groups, simply search for "Blue Mountains Scouts".

Steve Wallace
District Commissioner



HAWKESBURY

Youth membership numbers remain stable within the Hawkesbury District. This is attributed to the great programs, as suggested by the youth members and overseen by the Great Leaders of the Hawkesbury District. The Active Kids Program has also greatly assisted with the retention of the youth members. Within the District there are four (4) groups, including 1st Glossodia, 1st Grose Vale, 1st Hawkesbury, and 1st Oakville, there are a total of four (4) Joey Units, four (4) Cub Units, four (4) Scout Units, and two (2) Venturer Units, a Rover Crew, and the Black Horse Fellowship.

To start the year off, the District celebrated Founder's 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 which were held over two weekends. 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, directing VIPs to their seats, and handing out the wreaths.

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, Defence Force Promotion days, and a Community Day hosted by Hawkesbury Council. These events saw additional members joining the groups within the Hawkesbury.

Each Section was very interactive throughout the year, where each group would combine once a term at alternating groups. This was highly successful.

Joeys numbers fluctuated this year, however, remained viable for each of the Groups.

This year has saw 1st Grose Vale retain their trialling Joey Unit which now completes four Units of Joeys for the District. Joeys who attended the Joey Cub Water Fun Day and Joey Fun Day thoroughly enjoyed it and look forward to the next event.

The District Cub Scouts were kept busy throughout the year attending many events; the District Out and About activity was to Bradley's Head, which saw more than 60 participants attending. A good number of Cubs also attended Cuborette in preparation for Cuboree. The Cubs also attended a District Cub Camp at 1st Grose Vale.

The Scout section had a very busy year with numerous District and Region activities: District Rally, and Jamborette. There were mixed feeling about the Jamboree, however overall those that attended had a good time.

Each Group completed various Red, Blue, and Green Cord hikes. There were numerous activities including; canoeing, li-lowing, and bushwalking. There were many camps throughout the District including Survival, Surf, and Bush camps.

The 1st Glossodia and 1st Oakville Venturer Units continue to grow and had many combined nights. 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, and organised a base at Jamborette.

Rovers continued to grow this year and saw a great deal of interaction and joint activities with the Venturer Units. This saw Venturers linking to the Rovers

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

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

1st Glossodia

- Louise Redman Group Secretary - Special Service
- John Aquilina Assistant Venturer Leaser – Silver Wattle

1st Grose Vale

- Geoff Henderson Group Chair – Meritorious Service

1st Hawkesbury

- Tim West Scout Leader – Silver Wattle

1st Oakville

- Gillian Miller Cub Leader - Special Service
- Mat Harris Assistant Scout Leader - Meritorious 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.

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude 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

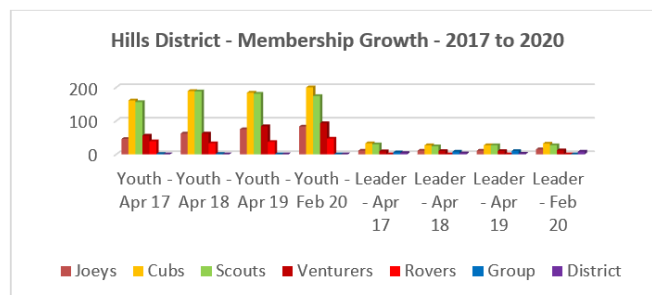
Membership within the Hills District continues to grow. The Hills District has continued to grow quite healthily over the past year. The District saw a 7% growth in Youth members & welcomingly we have enjoyed an increase of Leaders by 8%. Unfortunately, during these ‘interesting’ times of COVID-19, the District membership has declined slightly with many youth placing their membership on hold. Despite this the District has still maintained the same increase of numbers since last year & welcomingly enjoyed an increase of Leaders by 6%. We do expect the membership numbers to rise again once the COVID-19 pandemic eases. Membership queries are still flowing in across the District.

Our two new Groups; 1st Rouse Hill and Castle Hill Coptic continue to thrive with Rouse Hill particularly welcoming 5 new Leaders.

Interestingly, prior to the COVID-19 decline, we had enjoyed significant growth in 2 Sections that don’t typically see an increase. This is testament to the hard

work the sections are undertaking with retention strategies to entice the linking process.

1. Rovers – 27% growth
2. Venturers – 11% growth
3. Cubs – 11% growth
4. Joeys – 11% growth



Each of the Sections has been extremely active, hosting many joint nights with a wide variety of activities such as; District campfires, Observatory, Pack holidays, family camps, Jamborette, Scout Hike, Dragon Skin, Easter Camp, hikes & canoe journeys, high ropes, inter unit challenges, laser tag, rock climbing, performing arts; just to name a few; and many other fantastic themed events. The Leaders and Youth have really challenged themselves and organised fantastic engaging programs.

Engagement with the Community has remained paramount with all Groups continuing to be active participating in; Clean Up Australia Day, Anzac Ceremonies, canned food drives, environment & conservation events, and community fairs/fetes/ events, etc.

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 & 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:

SILVER KANGAROO

Carol Cope - 2nd Castle Hill Scout Group

SILVER KOALA

John Gale - 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Group

SILVER WATTLE

Christopher Henry - 1st Castle Hill Scout Group

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Matthew Barnett - 1st Castle Hill Scout Group
Tara Bonitz - 1st Kellyville Cub Pack 'Zazu'
Alice Gravina - 1st Kellyville Joey Mob
Eric Harris - 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Troop
Helen Hodge - 2nd Castle Hill Cub Pack 'Nackara'
Joanne Tyler - 2nd Baulkham Hills Outdoor Rover Crew
Andrew Whiddon - 2nd Castle Hill Scout Troop

SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

Hannah Clsie - 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Troop
Lisa Krnel - 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Group
Priscilla Leguier - 1st Castle Hill Scout Group
Heather Morris - 1st Castle Hill Cub Pack 'Kookaburra'
Jonathan Polis - 1st Kellyville Scout Troop
Ayla-Shannyn Sloan - 1st Dural Scout Troop 'Giwang'
Mariell Taylor - 1st Dural Cub Pack
Tim Uidam - 1st Balcombe Heights Cub Pack

ROVER SCOUT SERVICE AWARD

Christopher Ward - 2nd Castle Hill Rover Crew

Despite all the wonderful effort made by our Leaders organising a significant State event, due to the bushfires, Cuboree was cancelled. That did not stop our enthusiastic Leaders from running alternative events for our Youth. They were greatly attended and appreciated. Bravo to all who organised these events throughout the District, whether a day event or a week event, at such short notice.

We expect this next year to significantly increase with youth membership again and are still looking for growth in Leader numbers to support this. We are currently at capacity in a number of Groups and many Leaders working hard across dual appointments. 2 Groups in particular are in a race see who can achieve 150 members first. Many resources are required to assist attracting more Leaders to ease the current strain and provide further opportunities for youth membership growth. The District has trialled LeaderBuild in a number of Groups, with success, mostly boosting Group Committee numbers and parent involvement, but also sourcing a number of new Leaders.

The majority of the Groups in the District also transitioned into the new youth program late last year. We have been setting up support and mentoring assistance across the District. It has been challenging, frustrating at times, but the youth are thriving and benefitting from the adult supported process.

I would like to personally thank the adult members for their dedicated & selfless service to the youth in the District. There are a large number of them that are without a doubt going above and beyond and providing significant hours to Scouting each week in many different roles. 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

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the following members of Holroyd District on receiving the following Awards.

Silver Wattle to Karina Wardle 1st/2nd Merrylands

Meritorious Service Award to David Bannon and Laura Crump 1st/2nd Merrylands.

Special Service Award to Matthew Prants 1st/2nd Merrylands.

Jasmine Rowe on achieving the Australian Scout Medallion

Congratulations to all those youth members who achieved excellence in their badge work and to those youth members that have taken up the challenge and are now working on the award system.

Bravo - to the Leaders I thank you for your continued support and still presenting "Virtual Scouting" to your members in the current situation, hopefully it will not be too long before we are all able to get back to face to face meetings.

Ron Brown
District Commissioner

PARRAMATTA

Overall Parramatta District had another great year providing great Scouting to the youth in our community. Most groups reported growth and strength in numbers. Only one group struggled with a lack of leaders and a lack of youth members. Even so, quality activities were provided by the Region Team and attended by most members in the small groups. Reports from district leaders and several groups from the district follow to showcase the fun had in Scouting.

District Joeys Highlight:

In the 3rd term, the Joeys had great fun when dads joined celebrating 'Father's Day'. They also had an amazing time at our District Joey camp at Glenrock. It was a 'Pirate' themed camp. They got to go canoeing, hiking, beach games, rock climbing wall, slipper slide & oh so much more. They also managed to complete the 'Adventure Challenge Badge'.

District Cubs Highlight:

The Cubs had a fabulous time at the Cuborette at Camp Ku-ring-gai and at the Cuboree Shakedown Camps. They were all disappointed when the Cuboree was cancelled due to the high risk from bushfires. Many Groups provided an alternate holiday activities to try to alleviate some of the disappointment.

Another year full of activities at 1st North Rocks. High community involvement with Tree Planting and Clean Up Australia Day, Rotary Club Australia Day Flag Raising, Christmas Carols and their Santa Sleigh on New Years Eve. Fundraising with the Lions Club Christmas Raffle and Bunnings BBQs. Marching with GWS Scouts on Anzac Day. Out and about with too many camps and activities to name but highlights included starting the year at Jamboree, Caving at Wee Jasper, Joey/Cub Water Fun Day, Cuborette, State Rally and an Ewok Camp coinciding with our Group Open Day.

1st Parramatta had some growth in the most important places this year with two Joey leaders in training, very potential new Cub leader in training, and one Scout leader in training, and youth numbers increasing. Before COVID-19 we had good hall hire, with the Group sitting in a strong financial position (we are looking at ways of spending the money!), and this has allowed us to cut our Group fees entirely during COVID-19 (that is, 1st Parramatta members are only paying the 50% State Fees of \$25 per term during this period). Also before COVID-19 the Scout Troop was maintaining its active



outdoors activity program, with an overnight hike held on the weekend before lock down). Major highlight for the year was that 1st Parramatta Phoenix Patrol won the 2019 Parramatta District Scout competition camp!

The highlight for 1st Murray Farm last year was increasing numbers across all sections and coming out with a greater number of memberships, than resignations. Murray Farm has suffered significantly from the COVID-19 virus with many youth members not returning in early 2020 due to a large number of members undertaking overseas travel during the holidays and the isolation requirements on their return. The Group looks forward to returning to regular face to face meetings.

1st Winston Hills has had another great year and the committee have been busy making sure the leaders have everything they require to run a successful program. They have purchased 6 new 9 person tents, camping lights, radios and a lot of other camping equipment for the sections. The hall continues to be improved with a new front ramp and air conditioning being installed. With these great improvements to the climate control, the youth are being spoilt and won't want to leave the hall.

1st Rydalmere struggled during 2019-2020 with the loss of their Scout Leader, who moved on to the Region Activities Team. There are 4 leaders in training for the Scout section and we hope they will finish their training ready for the reopening of the group after COVID-19 lock down requirements are lifted. There is still only 1 Cub Leader, but the good news story for 1st Rydalmere is that former 1st Ermington Scout Leader Di Higgins, has transferred to 1st Rydalmere to take on the role of Group Leader and work with existing leaders to rebuild

the Group. Di has many years of Scouting experience and is already planning the steps to recruit new youth members from the local school with the assistance of Bill Barnes.

What a great and active year in the community for the Western Sydney BLIA Scout Group! Some memorable highlights from the Group were:

Buddha's Birthday & Multicultural Festival Celebration at Darling Harbour 2019 where BLIA Cubs and Scout performed with drums for the public attending the festival.



Tree Planting on National Tree Day at the Nan Tien Temple in Wollongong



And a joint activity with a Sydney North Group to visit the Nan Tien Temple in Chatswood



BLIA Scouts went camping as a group



Parramatta District wish to thank the various Region Activity Teams for providing great, inclusive activities for our Scouts. The District youth appreciates the efforts taken to provide quality outdoor Scouting activities. Despite the looming COVID-19 crisis, the Joey's and Cubs were particularly grateful for the Fun Day on the Water which was the last outdoor activity before the lockdown.

We look forward to greater things in the 2020-2021 year, even if they are a bit different to the way we are used to doing Scouting!

Tracey Hansford
District Commissioner

CLEAN LOOP RECYCLING

SCOUTS for SDGs

BLIA Scout Sydney participated On Earth Day 2020. Step up to Protect our Environment. This is also aligned with Scouts for SDGs movement.

LUBAL GOALS
ainable Development

世界地球日
EARTH DAY 22.4.2020
環保與心伴

PENRITH CITY

It has been a great year for Penrith City District Scouts.

Major district activities this year have included our now annual promotional campaign at the Penrith Real Festival on the Nepean River where the district, with the help of GWS Activities carried out amazing activity base including flying foxes, crate stacking, BBQ stall and climbing wall. We also had a district Christmas Party BBQ on the Grose River at Yarramundi and introduced an exciting new event called the Penrith City Monopoly Run.

This event saw teams of 4-7 youth members travelling around Penrith to find different squares on our custom game board and check in back to Monopoly HQ. Of course, if someone else had arrived first, they need to pay rent and of course there were chance and community chest activities to be found as well. The event was a huge success and will see a larger event staged in 2021.

Our sections have also been busy with camps, discos, disaster chef challenges, bush walks, rock climbing and social events. Each section aims for one joint activity a term and this has become a strong component of the program for each section.

The majority of our groups are continuing to grow and out-perform in all expectations. We have seen a number of youth members achieve their peak awards and several more expect to achieve them this year. Growth in these groups is high and we are looking to open another Venturer Scout Unit at 1st Cambridge Park this year. Unfortunately, due to declining numbers, 1st St Marys Scout Group became no longer viable in early 2020 and we made the sad decision to place the group into recess. Attempts will be made to revive this group in the future.

One of the key achievements this year was the conversion of the entire district to the “new” youth program in March. All groups are now working towards implementing the program in their sections and we look forward to even more amazing plans and activities coming from our youth members.

Steve Wallace
District Commissioner



SCOUT FELLOWSHIPS

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

There are 18 members of Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship. While 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.

Our members strongly supported the 2019 season of Cumberland Gang Show which was the 50th season titled 50 Years Together. Fellowship financially assisted several of the 50th year celebrations including the 50th Gala Dinner held at the Epping Club a month before the season and the history, It's The Moments, the 50 year story of Cumberland Gang Show, 1970-2019. The 2019 season was an outstanding success with very high attendances and the honour of the attendance of both the Governor of New South Wales and the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia. Many of our number have been involved in preparations for the 2020 season of Cumberland Gang Show titled Rise Up. Regrettably this season was deferred due to the onset of the Coronavirus.

Our social program included a visit to the Region Fire Station at Harris Park in May; the 50th Gala Dinner at the Epping Club in June; a successful show recovery dinner at the Brewhouse at Marsden Park in July; an evening of mini golf at Holey Moly followed by dinner at the Bavarian Restaurant both in Castle Hill in September; an enjoyable end of year dinner again at Greystanes in November and a wine and cheese night to open the year in February. We are very appreciative of all the efforts of our younger members in organising our social 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, to Dragonskin and to other Branch activities.

Congratulations to our members who were recognised in the 2019 Good Service Awards. Brendan Richards was awarded the Meritorious Service Award, Naomi

Azzopardi and Michael Lockman were both awarded the Special Service Award. These were presented at the Region Awards Dinner. I was also recognised at the Dinner with my appointment as a Life Councillor of the New South Wales State Council.

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 and Activities Coordinator Naomi Azzopardi. 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 2020-2021 once the Coronavirus lockdown has finished.

Lyall Wood

Chairperson - Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship

BLUE MOUNTAINS SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship have enjoyed a busy and varied year of service and social activities. We have also welcomed two new members to our group. We currently have 11 active members, most of whom have had a long association with scouting.

Our service activities in 2019 included;

- Cooking for 1st Blaxland Scout Group camp at the Mt Kiera Scout Camp
- Score keeping at the Holroyd District Swimming Carnival
- ANZAC Day march and service at Glenbrook
- Assisting Holroyd District run their base at the Region Jamborette
- JOTA/JOTI base at Glenbrook with the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club (BMARC)
- Assisting with cooking for a Cub Leadership course at Bundilla

Our social activities in 2019 included;

- Attending a play at the Henry Lawson theatre preceded by dinner
- Visiting the Royal Australian Navy Heritage Centre at Garden Island

- Attending a 50th anniversary theatre presentation of the Cumberland Gang Show
- Dinner at Mangoes Indian restaurant at Valley Heights
- Visiting the Newington Armoury
- Celebrating with a relaxing BBQ, Christmas and the end of a busy but enjoyable year

My thanks go to all our members for their willingness to make our service and social activities successful and enjoyable. We are all looking forward to more fun, fellowship and service during 2020.

Peter Tamsett

Chairperson - Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship

HAWKESBURY BLACK HORSE SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

During the 2019-2020 year we have done the following activities:

- 2 Bunnings BBQs
- Bi Monthly family friendly social nights at various eateries in the Hawkesbury
- Helped on the Hawkesbury Show stand in 2019, 2020 CANCELLED
- Thanks to Bendigo Bank supporting us we were able to install a defibrillator on outside of hall for use by The Guides and NDIS and us.
- A few members were attending Cuboree and made activities for bases and we had shirts made for Hawkesbury troop but CANCELLED
- Cuboree presentation
- A few members received years in service awards
- Gang Show was attended and few had high tea
- We were invited to run a Grannys Kitchen base for Mental Health Awareness Day, both adults and kids thoroughly enjoyed it
- We supported trivia night run by Glossodia Venturers, we had a table of 8.

Deb Freeman

Secretary - Hawkesbury Black Horse Scout Fellowship

PINNAROO SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship has again been busy giving service within Scouting and the Community. We also took some time for social events as well.

This year has seen members assisting at Rydalmere and Parramatta Scouts, Toongabbie and Westmead Cubs and Westmead Venturers.

We also ran a disguises base at the NSW Agoonaree. Members worked at the Region Jamborette, Parramatta and Holroyd Swimming Carnivals and Parramatta Joey/Cub Water Activities Day; also working behind the scenes when NSW Cuboree needed to be cancelled due to the bushfire conditions.

We could be found in the kitchen catering for the Cubs at three Cub Scout Leadership Courses and Region ARP.

Members assisted at the Children's Festival in First Fleet Park, collected for Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal and collected groceries for Ronald McDonald House. We also had members at Anzac Day Services at Parramatta and Merrylands.

It has not been all work. We enjoyed a Harbour Cruise to see the lights of Vivid followed by dinner; again we went to dinner & Gang Show and enjoyed a long lunch on the River Postman. A restful weekend away was held at Bungendore, where again food was high on the priority list.

We also had members at the Gillwell 100 years Reunion at Bundilla and at 1st Westmead's 80th Celebrations.

Christmas found us at Southern Cross Nursing Home singing Christmas Carols and distributing gifts to the residents, with a little help from Toongabbie Cubs.

Thank you to all our members for a successful year as we look forward to another busy year ahead.

Patricia Shaw

Chairperson - Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship

WARATAH ACTIVITY

SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

2019 was another good year for the Waratah Fellowship, with our members heavily involved in the running of last year's Waratah. It was another successful year, with many Venturers having a good time and another successful event being run. All in all a big BRAVO to all our members who were instrumental in running this annual event.

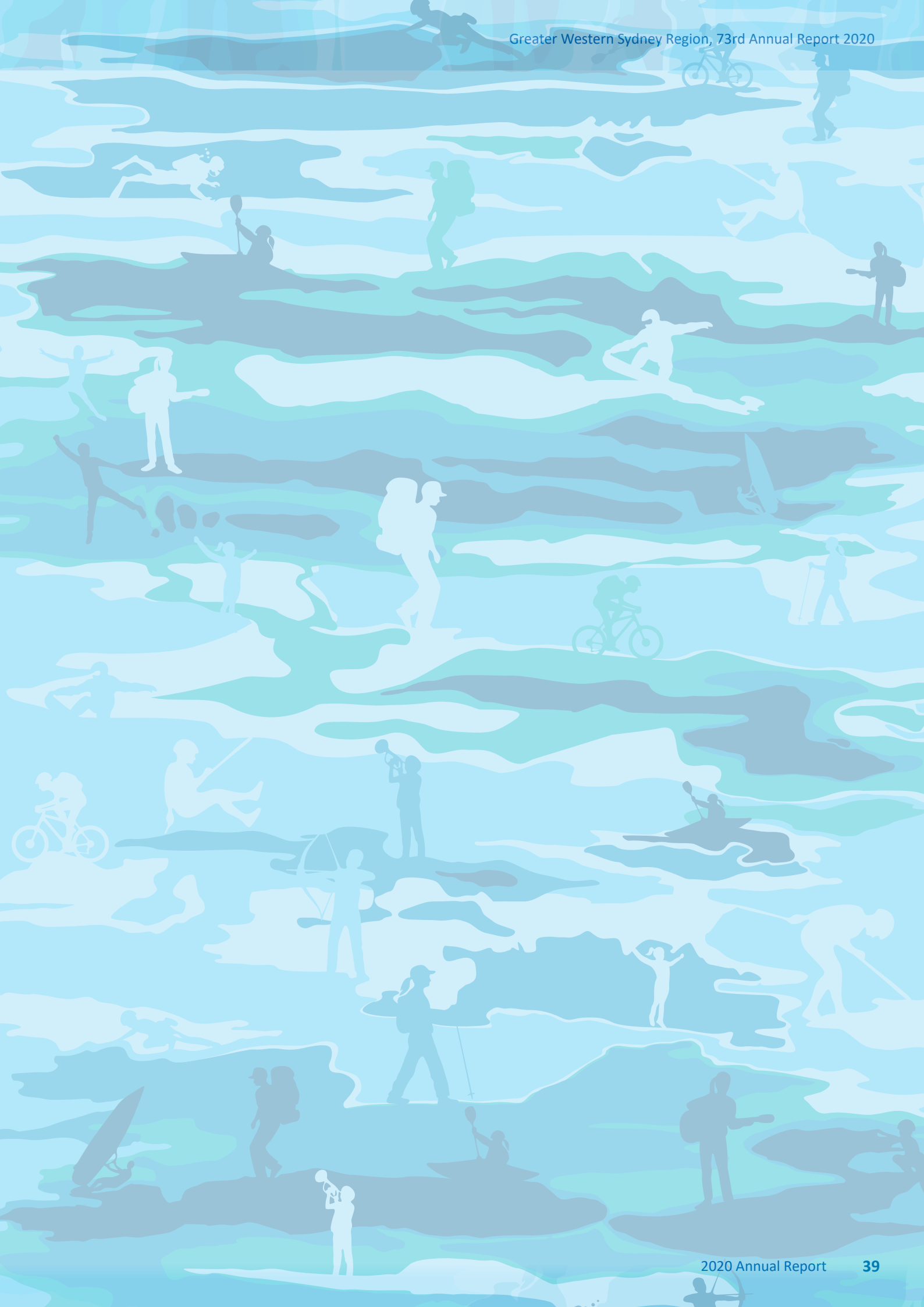
As a Fellowship, we have been trying to get out more and do more social events, which have unfortunately been impacted by the recent pandemic. As with all Scouting groups, we are trying new ways of communication to keep things going. Hopefully soon we shall be able to meet in person once again.

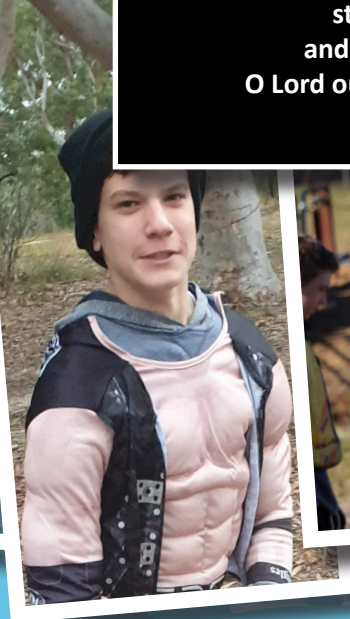
On a sadder note, we had last year the passing of one of our members Margo Dalziel. As one of our founding members, Margo has long been a part of the Fellowship and the wider Scouting movement, and we shall miss her valuable expertise.

Planning for the upcoming Waratah proceed for the upcoming year. As it is the 15th year of Waratah, the Fellowship will be drawing on all their past experience to evoke memories of all the previous Waratahs for a truly epic event.

Greg Anderson

Chairperson - Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship





THE SCOUT PRAYER

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

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



**Scouts Australia - NSW
 Greater Western Sydney Region**

6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills NSW 2153

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

www.greaterwestscouts.com.au