

Scouts Australia - NSW
Greater Western Sydney Region
62nd Annual Report
2009



SCOUTS
AUSTRALIA

Building a Better Future Today

www.greaterwestscouts.com.au



CENTENARY CELEBRATION at BUNDILLA



WOW.... What a great way to celebrate 100 years of scouting in Australia.

Beautiful weather, over 30 activities to choose from, fairy floss and excellent food and over 2500 people in the grounds of Bundilla. What more could anyone want on the last Sunday in June.

I am sure that all the groups who attended had a fabulous day and for those leaders who did not bother to attend with their members, you missed out on one heck of a Centenary Celebration.

The guests who attended the AGM, including the Chief Commissioner, state scouting representatives, local politicians and local government representatives, were very impressed with what they saw and congratulated us on a well organized function. They all commented on the numbers who were in attendance.

A day like this does not happen without organization and I would like to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of the following people who worked tirelessly on a committee headed by me. Kathy Cuneo and Sandy Knox (Joeys), Anne Thompson (Cubs), Robin Garrett (Scouts),



Mark Absalom (Venturers), Bennett Lansley (Rovers), Keith Travers (Activities) and Colin Nicholas (Region Executive).

Also a special thank you to all the leaders who worked so hard on the activity bases, the leaders and Region Executive who assisted in the sale of badges, passports and raffle tickets and the scout group committees who manned the food and drink stalls and the Rovers who did such an excellent job on the fairy floss stall. I must also pass on my thanks to Alan Overton and Parramatta Eels Rugby League who donated the lucky door prizes.

Just think... only another 99 years to the Bicentennial

Neville Henderson
Deputy Region Commissioner



PS. Because of the success of the last event we are having another "Big Day In" on Sunday 1 August 1010. Look for further information in the Region Bulletin and put the date in your diary.

Greater Western Sydney Region Team 2008-2009

Region President	<i>Alan Overton AM</i>
Region Chairman	<i>Colin Nicholas / Geoff McGrath</i>
Region Treasurer	<i>Lorraine Joiner</i>
Region Commissioner	<i>Jan Playford</i>
Deputy Region Commissioner	<i>Neville Henderson</i>
Region Office Manager	<i>Jan Carter</i>

Region Commissioners

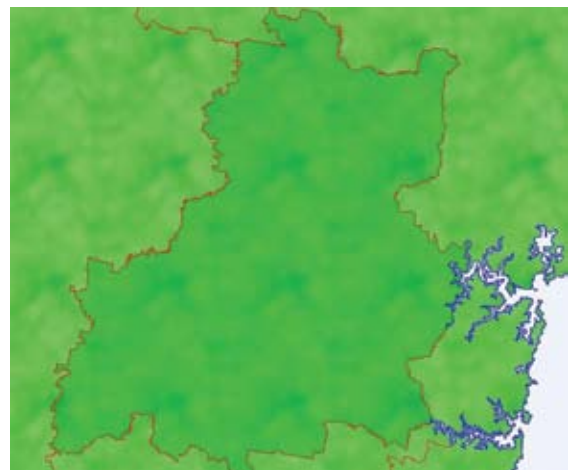
Joey Scouts	<i>Kathy Cuneo</i>
Cub Scouts	<i>Patricia Shaw</i>
Scouts	<i>Robin Garrett</i>
Venturer Scouts	<i>Mark Absalom / Aaron Wardle</i>
Rovers	<i>David Twist</i>
Activities	<i>Keith Travers</i>
Adult Training & Development	<i>Ann Pounder</i>
Development	<i>Dianne Stocks</i>
International	<i>Peter Nickl</i>

District Commissioners

Blacktown	<i>Sandra Parker</i>
Blue Mountains	<i>Paul Roach</i>
Hawkesbury	<i>Neville Henderson (Acting)</i>
Hills South	<i>Gavan Hall</i>
Holroyd	<i>Ron Brown</i>
Parramatta	<i>Neville Henderson (Acting)</i>
Penrith City	<i>Roger Hyatt</i>

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



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

**Minutes of the Annual Scout Council Meeting held at Bundilla Scout Training & Activities Centre
on Sunday 29th June 2008 commencing at 12.30pm.**

PRESENT: Region President Alan Overton AM in the chair, others as per attendance book.

1. APOLOGIES

As per names listed on Agenda.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and confirmed as correct.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.

4. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

4.2. Annual Report

Jan Playford, Region Commissioner

To move the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements

Mr. Colin Nicholas
Chairman

To second the Adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements

Mrs. Lorraine Joiner
Region Treasurer

5. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS.

REGION PRESIDENT	Mr. A Overton AM
REGION CHAIRMAN	Mr. Colin Nicholas
REGION TREASURER	Mrs. Lorraine Joiner
TRUSTEES	Region Commissioner Mr. Geoff McGrath Mr. Ted Norval

6. ELECTION OF MEMBERS – REGION COUNCIL & REGION EXECUTIVE

Mr. L Wood AM RFD	Mr. P Nickl	Mr. E Norval	Mr. P Stieme
Mr. R Spornick	Mr. G McGrath	Mr. B Henderson	

7. SCARF UP THE COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

Regional Commissioner Jan Playford made presentations to prominent members of the community for their continued support. There were a number of Lord Mayors, Mayors, Aldermen, Local Federal and State members of Parliament and The Trefoil Guild.

8. ADDRESS BY THE NSW CHIEF COMMISSIONER Mr. Grant De Fries

The meeting ended at 1.20 pm followed by a light luncheon and guests were invited to attend Greater Western Sydney Region's Centenary Celebrations that was held in the grounds at Bundilla.

REGION COMMISSIONER

It gives me great pleasure to present the 62nd annual report of Greater Western Sydney Region. Our region consists of 47 active groups. Sadly we lost Guildford Group when their hall burned down; they have amalgamated with 3rd Merrylands. Blaxcell St has amalgamated with 1st Granville and 1st Kurrajong is in recess, we are hoping to reopen this group in the New Year. We still have a number of closed groups. These come under the region budget and we have to decide whether to keep them in the anticipation of reopening or rescind them if that is not a possibility.

Our region covers seven Districts, Blue Mountains, Blacktown, Hawkesbury, Hills, Holroyd, Parramatta and Penrith. We have welcomed Gavan Hall as District Commissioner for Hills; however we are still looking for District Commissioners for Hawkesbury and Parramatta. Neville Henderson has been working with Hawkesbury and Parramatta, but we really need to find staff as Neville has a large workload as my Deputy. Some big changes are planned for Hawkesbury and hopefully will be complete shortly. We have now have four Fellowships in the region with the addition of Blue Mountains Fellowship.

Last year was once again a year of challenges. Whilst we gained adults, which is great, we in actual fact did not increase youth numbers. Hopefully this can be addressed with the extra leaders we have gained, working hard to present exciting scouting. We do however have three groups whose numbers are in excess of 100. 1st Blaxland, 1st 2nd Merrylands and 1st Winston Hills. Congratulations to these groups, particularly 1st Blaxland who are now looking at having two Joey Mobs and two Cub Packs. Something we haven't seen since the eighties.

2008 declared "The Year of The Scout" by the then Prime Minister John Howard, to mark 100 years of Scouting in Australia, and what a great year it was for the region. Most groups were very active last year taking part in Centenary celebrations. Districts were invited to attend civic receptions by local governments to celebrate the Centenary. Many groups invited

prominent people to events where they were "scarfed up" with special Centenary scarves. 1st Parramatta and 1st Toongabbie both celebrated their very own centenaries, and took part in the Centenary Camp at Homebush.

Last years AGM was held in conjunction with our Region Celebration Centenary Day. In excess of 3000 people passed through the gates of Bundilla to see Scouting in action. The day really showcased Scouting with all sorts of activities to be tried. We also gained some tremendous publicity in the local press with photos of scouts of all ages trying the climbing wall. Young and old attended the day with everyone working together for a common goal, and amazingly not a cross word to be heard. My thanks to Neville Henderson, and

his able organising committee. We will be once again holding a similar day 1st August 2010. In the reports you will see that the region is offering a wide and varied program to both adults and youth members. Pick any weekend in the year and you will find members out and about putting the out in scouting.



We are extremely lucky having a fairly stable team who all work tremendously hard supporting both leaders and youth members. Mark Absalom RCVS decided to take a break and we have welcomed Aaron Wardle in that role. Aaron is working hard to grow the Venturer section. We also farewelled Colin Nicholas as our Chairman and welcomed Geoff McGrath. Geoff has been involved in Scouting since a youth member and has a wealth of knowledge.

Matt Thompson our region webmaster launched our very own web site to a fan fare from Star wars, at our awards dinner in October last year to honour forty two of our members who received World Scout Day awards. The website continues to go from strength to strength. It has been particularly helpful making sure that our leaders are kept up to date with all the latest changes in forms, policies and leader support guides. We have had favourable comments from State, in particular of our usage of Activity forms. Our members can click on the calendar for an activity and up pops the form for them to use. Certainly a time saver as well as making sure we are following policies and procedures. We continue to work with State to implement administrative changes as well as working as best we can with financial constraints, and

the website has certainly helped keeping us all well informed.

Bundilla has blossomed with the addition of the new water tanks and we are currently awaiting the possibility of a financial grant to upgrade the facilities. Unfortunately we have had a white ant problem but it is in the process of being treated. We welcomed new caretakers, Julian & Claire Van Kuyk. The grounds are looking much better with the regular attention. We also have community workers regularly that help as well. It would be remiss of me not to mention our very own Bundy Club. A small band of regulars, mainly executive members, who meet to help out with the maintenance around the camp, and doing "men's work" for me. Barry King our cleaner has also left us and Peter Stieme has joined us as our cleaner to keep the facilities presentable.

Our office and campsite is ably run by Jan Carter (Jan the Elder). Jan is a tower of strength to me running the office smoothly, coping with the changes that are continual and dealing with our members who at times can be difficult. It never ceases to amaze me the number of enquiries Jan receives, not only Scouting related but all sorts of questions from the general public. Jan goes out of her way to solve these problems. Jan is also our member support for the region and always has a listening, confidential ear for those who need it, including me! I would also like to thank Anne Thompson, our "office junior" who is helping Jan with office duties as well as preparing the accounts. Anne is also responsible for much of the garden beautification around the campsite. My thanks to the Executive Committee including Alan Overton our President who is so supportive of Scouting, Geoff McGrath for taking on the role of Chairperson and Lorraine Joiner our treasurer who ably manages our finances and balances the budget. Thanks to Pam Garske also for becoming our minute secretary.

The challenge for me is managing the adults in the region. It is at times a difficult task keeping everything flowing on an even keel. I am truly blessed with the support I receive from the State office, other Regional Commissioners and our own region team. The regional section commissioners do a fantastic job. Every section is running smoothly, with all sections running events catering to all types of preferences. You will see from the reports how busy the sections are. The activity team is a small team who work tirelessly to provide canoeing, sailing, abseiling, rock climbing, caving, radio & science, first aid as well as our famous

Cumberland Gang Show catering to our scouts with performing arts skills. The District teams are at the local level. Support of the groups is paramount and these teams work hard promoting Scouting, particularly at local events, parades, fairs and the like.

My thanks to the team, I couldn't do it without you. Thanks to Neville Henderson my Deputy, for his support and for never saying no, when I ask him to tackle the awkward jobs that need a "mans hand".

I would like to thank all the leaders and volunteers that support this region. Whether you wear uniform or not, your dedication and time is what keeps Scouting going in the region we couldn't do it without you.

We are now entering our second centenary. The theme for 2009 is "Building a Better Future". Very apt for our modern and changing world. This means different things to different people. A Better Future for all people, the environment, our resources, and fits very much with our Aims and Principles. We are building a better future, physically, intellectually, socially, spiritually and emotionally. How can anyone involved in Scouting not be influenced in these ways? We will certainly continue to strive to Build a Better Future for everyone in our region in the coming years.

Jan Playford

Region Commissioner



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 2009

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	Administration		
	<i>Income</i>		
1,390	Saleable Items Income	3,220	1,500
4,895	Donation and Grants	20	200
-	Sundry Income	-	-
<u>6,285</u>		<u>3,240</u>	<u>1,700</u>
	<i>Expenditure</i>		
42,299	Salaries and On Costs	46,111	53,833
322	Awards, Badges & Scarves	-	500
215	Computer Expenses	1,100	300
48	Depreciation	2,650	-
419	Meeting/Award Dinner Expenses, net of receipts	1,097	(80)
583	Postage	44	1,000
3,807	Printing & Stationery	1,768	3,500
1,282	Repairs & Maintenance	1,095	2,100
348	Saleable Items Cost	1,162	500
545	Security of Premises	-	1,000
1,776	Telephone	1,214	2,000
886	Sundry Expense	926	160
<u>52,530</u>		<u>57,167</u>	<u>64,813</u>
<u>(46,245)</u>	Net Administration Cost	<u>(53,927)</u>	<u>(63,113)</u>
<u>(1,308)</u>	Development & Promotion	<u>730</u>	<u>6,619</u>
	Camps & Activity Centres		
4,487	Bundilla	(28,147)	(81,877)
<u>4,487</u>		<u>(28,147)</u>	<u>(81,877)</u>
	Scouting Activities		
913	RC Section - Joeys	863	(45)
2,514	RC Section - Cubs	1,503	122
11,871	RC Section - Scouts	7,819	235
591	RC Section - Venturers	3,858	165
(80)	RC Section - Rovers	(110)	(280)
4,558	RC Section - Activities	7,623	39
115	RC Section - Others	(173)	(160)
(160)	International Section	(156)	24
4,674	Gang Show	(5,679)	6,906
(80)	Districts	194	(370)
<u>24,916</u>		<u>15,742</u>	<u>6,636</u>
<u>(67)</u>	Leader Training	<u>3,195</u>	<u>(830)</u>
<u>3,928</u>	Property	<u>(2,519)</u>	<u>(4,891)</u>
<u>(14,289)</u>	Net Region Cost of Operation	<u>(64,926)</u>	<u>(137,456)</u>

Above summary is an extract from the audited accounts of The Scout Association of Australia, NSW Branch, for the year ended 31st March 2009

Lorraine Joiner
Regional Treasurer

Adam Buckle, CPA
Hon Treasurer, NSW Branch

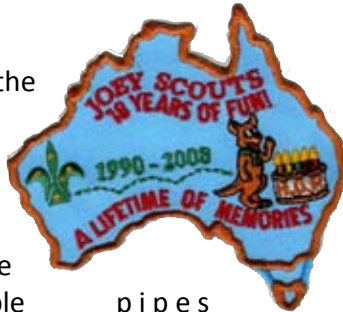
SECTION REPORTS

Joey Scouts

18th Birthday

The 1st July, 2008 was the day every Joey Scout Mob celebrated the 18th birthday of Joey Scouts in Australia with a "B.P.party".

There were blue and purple balloons, big pizzas, bubble pipes and bowling parties. The leaders used imagination to develop party ideas that used the initials B.P. Each Joey Scout was given a special badge to wear on their uniform.



Fun Programming Konara

August was the month the leaders from Greater Western Sydney Region hosted a mini-Konara about programming to stimulate a variety of ideas for the leaders of GWSR and Hume Region. The Region and District leaders from both Regions combined to reinforce the training aspect of planning programs. Many interesting ideas were presented and have been put into practice in the Joey Scout Mobs since. We all like to have fun.

Mob Holidays at Ingleside Scout Camp

The expertise gained at our first Mob Holiday in 2007 was used in planning two Mob Holidays in 2008. To give the Joey Scouts a different venue we booked Ingleside Scout Camp for both Mob Holidays. The staff at Ingleside was very helpful and accommodating. Both weekends were enjoyed by the Joey Scouts and their parents. The Joey Scouts participated in a number of environmental activities such as planting trees, a water bug survey and animal tracking. These Mob Holidays take a lot of preparation but seeing the Joey Scouts' enjoyment makes it all worthwhile. Eight Mobs have participated in Mob Holidays so far and we hope that other Mobs will become involved this year. A big thank you must go to the Parramatta District Joey Scout leaders who have developed the programs for the Mob holidays.



Water Fun Days

In December the Joey Scout section was well represented at the Region Water Day at Chipping Norton. The weather was beautiful and this is a great day out for scouting families. The Joey Scout section planned a Water Day at Chipping Norton in March to give the youth members more opportunities to experience canoeing. As this was held on the Harmony Day weekend, activities were planned to incorporate Harmony Day with the water activities. Once again the weather was beautiful and over one hundred youth members had a wonderful, fun filled day playing in the water.

2009

In 2009 we are encouraging Greater Western Sydney Joey Scouts to get outdoors. The March water fun day was part of the strategy and is to be followed by the annual fun Day at Bundilla in May. The theme this year is medieval with catapults and dragons.

We have been researching bushwalking for Joey Scouts and hope that during term 3 all Joey Scout Mobs will try this activity.

Promise Challenge Badge

In 2008, fifteen Joey Scouts were awarded their Promise Challenge Badge. Each of the Joey Scouts had researched interesting facts about Lord Baden-Powell as well as doing community service as part of Duty to Others. These badges can be worn on the Cub shirt until the presentation of the bronze boomerang. Congratulations to those children.



Wandarrahs

The Joey Scout leaders of the Region regularly attend Wandarrah and some interesting discussions have been held to help leaders with new strategies. Our communication system via newsletters and e-mails means that leaders are aware of scouting events. A big thank you must go to Sandy Knox, our DLJS for Parramatta for her expertise and diligence in the communication area.

The Joey Scout section is expanding with new mobs being registered. We welcome the new Joey Scouts and their leaders. We have over twenty Joey Scout leaders in training at present and the help given to these new recruits by our experienced leaders is appreciated.

A big thank you needs to go to all the Joey Scout leaders in the Region for providing exciting activities for the youth members. The number of people attending our events shows that the parents are responding to our enthusiasm.

Many of the Joeys in the Region are linking to the Cub section when they approach their eighth birthday. Many parents are approaching the Scouting movement when their child is Joey Scout age and it is a good age to recruit new members to the Scouting movement.

Website

Greater Western Sydney Region Joey Scouts has their own website which is linked to the parent GWSR website and this has become an important resource for Joey scout leaders throughout the state. Over 47,000 hits were made on the website during the last year. The website contains a wide range of programs plus information on upcoming courses and events. www.gwsjoeys.org.au

HOP HOP HOP

Kathy Cuneo

Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)

Cub Scouts

The Cub Scout programme has again been full of fun and variety. Districts have been busy with First Aid Days, Swimming Carnivals, Billy Cart Derbies, District hikes, Pack Holidays; in addition most have been involved in special activities for Founders Day, Australia Day and have held special nights for Mothers' Day & Fathers' Day.

We again ran three Cub Scout Leadership Courses giving our young people a chance to develop leadership skills and share ideas with other cub scouts from the region. These courses are aimed at our cub scouts who show leadership potential and aim to give them some useful skills in this area.

The older cubs shared a Region Camp at Bundilla where they participated in a scout style camp and had there chance to try their hand at the varied activity bases on offer.

To celebrate the Year of the Scout we took part in the Region Fun Day at Bundilla where a great time was had by all. Many leaders also attended the Gilwell Reunion for our special year.



1st Carlingford
Cub Scouts
at the
2008
Cook-Off



Our Palaver this year was themed on the spread of Scouting, with us starting at Brownsea Island and travelling the world with lots of great programme ideas, laughter and sharing of ideas for those who attended.

This year NSW Cub Scouts held their first Cook-Off. Each Pack, then District, then Region held a Cook-Off with 1st Carlingford representing us at the State event. Although 1st Wingham were the eventual winners our cub scouts learnt lots along the way and 1st Carlingford put in a great effort and fed us well. Thank you to those leaders who ran with this idea as I know the cub scouts gained a great from taking part.

Congratulations to the following Cub Scouts who have been presented with their Grey Wolf Award – Joshua Priest, Rebecca Knox, Shauna Moloney, David Marscham, Daniel Rec, Nathan Ricardo, Karla Salmon, Matthew Prants, Ned Bukarica, Amy Whitton, Angelique Lynch, Luke Vella, Ruairi Fleming, Joshua Irving, Jason Townley, Andrew Martin, Braden Pollard, Tegan Ihnativ, Brendon Lewis, Andrew Cameron, Daniel de Angelis, Naomi Hudson-Swan, James McKenzie, Darion Roberts, Jarod Nekipelov, Timothy Martin, Hamish Boxall, Gordon Fraser, Harry Sollom, Eleanor de Jersey, Thomas Marley, Daniel Burrows, Joshua Hockley, Jack McCulloch and Jonathon Slender.

The District Leaders had the opportunity to share ideas at the NSW District Leaders Conference at Stanwell Tops. The weekend provided ideas for Seonee meetings and personal development as well as fun and laughter.

We offered a programming workshop to leaders to assist them with the planning of their programme for 2009; this was well attended and useful to the participants.

My thanks to the District Cub Scout Leaders and Seeonee Leaders (Lorraine Shaw, Melissa Clarke, Phyllis McAlpine, Gavan Hall, Anne Thompson, Charlene Bordley) our scribe (Betty Truscott) and Shirley Robinson for their support and hard work during the year. Special thanks to Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship for their support conducting Map & compass activity at 10year old camp and for catering for our Palaver and Cub Scout Leadership courses and looking after us so well.

Congratulations to Betty Truscott (our scribe) on being awarded the Silver Kangaroo for eminent achievement and meritorious service in the World Scout Day awards. 1-2-3-woof!

The cub section looks forward to a new year filled with fun activities giving the young people in our care the opportunity to grow and learn through fun and action.

Patricia Shaw

Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts)

Scouts

A great Jamborette was held in 2008. The biggest plus, besides the weather and leader health, was that everyone was enthused about the Jamborette and got into the spirit of the theme "Super Heroes". Opening parade saw quite an array of youth members in costume with capes and undies on the outside of their clothes. We had a huge increase in the number of theme gateways and they were all VERY good. The feedback from the leaders in our Mindari was that the winning Troop, 2nd Baulkham Hills, deserved it. The wining Traditional Gateway was 4th Castle Hills.

The Region PL Council adopted the suggestions from the State Scout Youth Council (SYC) for a Region Scout Youth Council (SYC) made up of two PL's and an ordinary Scout from each District. On top of the District representation, is an executive of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary. A similar SYC will exist in each District with meetings being held at least each Term.

This year saw the introduction into our Region of the new Scout Leadership course which so far has been run in three Districts and more coming later in the year. The first Advance Scout Leadership course was held in conjunction with the Royal Easter Show and the Scout Day at the show. We had several Scouts attend from our Region and they really felt it was a worthwhile course

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

Ben Lawrence	1st Hazelbrook
Eugene Lee	1st Westmead
Jessica Grove	1st Pendle Hill
Mitchell Hayes	1st North Rocks
Blake Huthnance	1st Springwood
Brendan Emery	1st Westmead
Ben Marsden	1st Winston Hills

Bravo to all.

Robin Garrett

Region Commissioner (Scouts)



Eugene Lee (1st Westmead) & Jessica Grove (1st Pendle Hill) cutting their cake after being presented with their Australian Scout Medallians (September 2008)

Venturer Scouts

Activities and courses have been well attended with the highlight for the year being our annual competition camp. 77 unsuspecting Venturer Scouts from around the Region gathered at “The Danelaw” – a private property near Braidwood in the state’s Southern Highlands – to compete in Waratah’s toughest challenge yet: Survivor Waratah.

The participants endured being evicted from their tents at 2AM, given pet chickens and led into the bush. Not to mention the problem solving challenges, the obstacle course, and the unusual treats of Survivor Cafe, the Venturers battled continuing drizzle and the torment of Tribal Council, all in the quest for ultimate victory. The winners of Waratah 2008 were eventually declared as tribe Nomad from 1st Hazelbrook Venturer Unit with a job very well done!

In other events, several Venturers from the Region attended the National Venture in Perth. It was an enormously hot and dusty adventure, and all of our participants had a most enjoyable time away. They represented the Region well and gained much from the experience.

Roventure and Dragon Skin were again very popular activities to combine with the Rover section. Dragon Skin attracted approximately two thirds of all members to Newnes this year and our appreciation extends to the Rovers and Leaders who continue to construct new and exciting bases that provide encouragement for so many Venturers to return.

Many of our leaders have been embarking on their advanced training. I would like to congratulate Dorothy Bell on achieving her Venturer Wood Badge



The victorious winners of the 2008 “Survivor” Waratah Nomad Tribe, 1st Hazelbrook Venturers (November 2008)



GWS Venturers participating in the 2009 Sydney ANZAC Day March

earlier this year and am pleased to acknowledge that there are several more on the way.

I would also like to take the opportunity to express appreciation to Mark Absalom for his dedication to the role of RCVS in recent years. Mark has departed the role for a well earned rest, and the Region has definitely been richer for his considerable time and effort in managing the section.

2009 has seen the launch of the new Venturer Scout Award Scheme. Assessment of award requirements is now being coordinated at a unit level, providing more ownership of the badge system by the Venturers themselves. With the introduction of the Venturer and Endeavour Awards, Venturers also have the opportunity to receive recognition for their achievements at several stages throughout the section.

As the highest award for Venturer Scouts, the Queen’s Scout Award continues to represent the culmination of considerable challenge and personal development, and it is with much pleasure that I am able to announce two more recipients of the Award. Congratulations go to Benjamin Scott (1st Winston Hills) and Mitchell Woolfenden (1st Blaxland) on achieving this significant accomplishment and we wish them all the best as they progress into Rovers and beyond.

Thank you to everyone for their hard work throughout the year, and I look forward to another busy 12 months ahead.

Aaron Wardle
Region Commissioner (Venturers)

ROVERS

This year marked some exciting moments for GWS Rovers. A huge bravo to Eliza McGrath who received the Baden Powell Award in April and Jenny Wardell (Rover Adviser Kings Langley) who gained the Rover Wood badge. Kings Langley Rover Crew held the 10th Annual Regressive Formal McDonald's Dinner which raised a large amount of money for the Children's Hospital Westmead.

Training Moot 'Rover Attack Squad'

Training Moot was a successful experiment in the delivery of Rover Training. The Moot was held on the 7th and 8th February at Ingleside Scout camp. There has been praise from the Branch Commissioner Training, Region Commissioner Training and Branch Commissioner Rovers on the organisation of this Moot. Some of the training sessions that were presented on this moot have been tried on other training courses across NSW with good results.



Rovers from Greater Western Sydney participated in a wide variety of activities in the pass year.

- Dragon Skin
- Anzac Day
- St Georges Day Church Service
- Royal Easter Show
- Magical Mystery Tour & Harbour Cruise
- Lord Mayor's Picnic
- Mud Bash (Victorian Rover activity)
- PR / activity base & security at GWS Jamborette
- Rover moots (including NZ Jafa Moot)

Yours in Roving,

Matthew Lee

Rover, 1st Blaxland 'Kalangadoo' Rover Crew
Region Rover Council Chairman 2008 / 2009

Bennett Lansley

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

David Twist

Region Commissioner (Rovers)



YOUTH MEMBER AWARDS, 2008-2009



AUSTRALIAN SCOUT MEDALLION

Ben LAWRENCE	Scout, 1st Hazelbrook Scout Troop
Eugene LEE	Scout, 1st Westmead Scout Troop
Jessica GROVE	Scout, 1st Pendle Hill Scout Troop
Mitchell HAYES	Scout, 1st North Rocks Scout Troop
Blake HUTHNANCE	Scout, 1st Springwood Scout Troop
Brendan EMERY	Scout, 1st Westmead Scout Troop
Ben MARSDEN	Scout, 1st Winston Hills Scout Troop



QUEENS' SCOUT AWARD

Benjamin SCOTT	Venturer, 1st Winston Hills Venturer Unit
Mitchell WOOLFENDEN	Venturer, 1st Blaxland Venturer Unit



BADEN POWELL AWARD

Eliza McGRATH (nee FARR)	Rover, 1st Baulkham Hills Rover Crew
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ADULT LEADER AWARDS & DECORATIONS, 2008-2009



SILVER KANGAROO – for Eminent Achievement and Meritorious Service

TRUSCOTT, Elizabeth Margaret ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Westmead Cub Scout Pack



SILVER EMU – for Sustained and Exceptional Service

BROWN, Graham Kenworthy ----- AL 1st Erskine Park
 HENNESSY, Paul, Gerard Vincent ----- CSL 1st Erskine Park Pack
 PARKER, Sandra Veronica ----- District Commissioner (Blacktown District)
 PLAYFORD, Janette May ----- Region Commissioner, Greater Western Sydney Region
 ROACH, Paul Allan ----- District Commissioner (Blue Mountains District)
 RUDD, Gary William ----- District Advisor (Blacktown District)



SILVER WATTLE – for Outstanding Service

GARRETT, Robin Joseph ----- Region Commissioner (Scouts), Greater Western Sydney Region
 HORTON, Desmond Robin ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Troop
 KING, Barry Arthur ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 4th Castle Hill Scout Troop
 MOSSE-ROBINSON, Christopher Colin ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Troop
 WAGNER, Stephen Paul ----- Scout Leader, West Pennant Hills Valley Scout Troop

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – for Distinguished Service

PLAYFORD, Barry ----- Supporter, Greater Western Sydney Region
 WOOD AM RFD, Lyall Alan ----- Fellowship Chairman, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship



SILVER ARROWHEAD – for Excellent Service

ARNSBY, Bruce William ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Scout Troop
 CUNEO, Graham Robert ----- Group Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Group
 LEE, Peter John ----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship
 MCEWAN, Julie Kay ----- Associate Leader, 1st Winston Hills Scout Group
 RAYNER, Jo-Anne Maree ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Cub Pack
 STENBERG, Lisa Joan ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Scout Troop
 WELTON, Denis Colin ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Scout Troop

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT – For Good Service

ABSALOM, Mark Anthony ----- Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts) GWS Region
 CICLOVAN, Neil Grahame ----- Associate Leader, 1st 2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Group
 CREER, Rodney John ----- Scout Leader, 1st Emu Plains Scout Troop
 DAINES, Glenn Matthew ----- Scout Leader, 1st Whalan Scout Troop
 FARR, Paul Anthony ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st 2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Troop
 FITZSIMMONS, Guy ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Cub Pack
 GRAHAM, Brian ----- Group Deputy Chairman, 1st Erskine Park Group
 HARDIMAN, John Anthony ----- Group Leader, 1st Winston Hills Group
 HARDIMAN, Lorna ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Cub Pack
 HARTMANN, Vicki Lorraine ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st 2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Troop
 HOWLETT, Ross William ----- Scout Leader, 1st Quakers Hill – Doonside Scout Troop
 HYATT, Roger David ----- Group Leader, 1st Emu Plains Group
 MAJOOR, Michael ----- Group Treasurer 1st Ermington Group
 MICALLEF, Noel ----- Group Treasurer 1st Erskine Park
 O'LOUGHLIN, Paul ----- Scout Leader, 1st 2nd Blacktown Scout Troop
 SAVAGE, James Bernard ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Troop
 SAVAGE, Nicole Rhonda ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Joey Mob
 STENNING, Jodie Allyse ----- Associate Leader, 1st 2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Group
 STEWART, Meredith Christine ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Scout Troop
 THOMPSON, Matthew Carl ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Pendle Hill Cub Pack
 WYITHE, Kevin John ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st 2nd Merrylands (St Anne's)

DISTRICT REPORTS

Blacktown

The last six months of 2008 were very busy, with our Centenary celebrations coming to a close. The annual Blacktown City Festival, was held in early June, and saw well over 100 uniformed youth and adult members, taking part in the street parade. The cubs played drums, which made it easier to keep time as we marched along. We had Group signs for the first time this year, which were made by Mitchell Anderson from 2nd Kings Langley and two trucks decorated in the Scouting theme. The crowd cheered and clapped as we marched past them.

Towards the end of 2008, Mike Richards indicated that he would not be able to continue as a District Leader, due to his work commitments, so he is now at 1st Kings Langley, where his daughter is also a Cub Scout.

David Robinson, a former Leader with 1st Toongabbie joined our District Team. David loves the training side of Scouting and is keeping tabs on our many Leaders in training.

2nd Kings Langley reopened their Joey Scout Mob after a number of years in recession.

Last year, I interviewed the nine Group Leaders/Leaders in Charge and the Group Managers in Blacktown District. All the Groups indicated they would like to see more sections open in their Groups. Some Groups have already made this a reality. Three Groups also wanted to start up a Venturer Unit. This could be achieved if they all pull together and possibly amalgamate in some cases - it is no use having just four or five youth members in one group. The bigger the Group, the better the programme!

Once again, the Scout section has been kept very busy. The number of District events that Mark Fell, our DSL organises is phenomenal!

- The Region Jamborette was, as always well attended.
- The Scouts and Leaders ran a base in Penrose State Forest, at the invitation of Sydney North Region.
- Twenty Scouts attended a Scout Leadership Course
- Fifty Leaders and Scouts went on a two day hike in the Wollemi National Park
- The annual Mindari Camp (all Leaders, no youth members) was a perfect opportunity for

experienced Leaders to share their knowledge and skills with new Leaders.

- Seventy people attended the District Camp at Glenfield Scout Camp.
- Blacktown District has enough applicants for the Jamboree to make up two troops. It has been a long time since we have been able to achieve these numbers!

Mark is a dedicated Leader and always has a good attendance at all the activities he organises. He would like to thank everyone for their continued support and enthusiasm.

The Cub Scout section, under the Leadership of Lorraine Shaw, our District Leader Cub Scouts, has also been very busy.

- A very successful District Camp was held at Cataract Scout Park.
- Many of our cubs attended the Jamborette and Blacktown Seeonee ran a craft base at the Jamborette.
- The annual Billy Cart Derby proved to be extremely popular once again, with our youth members and Leaders, as well as those who attended from other districts and regions.
- This year, the District Hike took place along the foreshores of some of Sydney's most beautiful beaches.

Unfortunately, with my computer out of action, I have been unable to record all the District activities that have taken place!

I would like to commend everyone in Blacktown District for their continued commitment and dedication to Scouting and offer my sincere thanks to all the Leaders for their hard work and support throughout the year - it is greatly appreciated.

Sandra Parker

District Commissioner

Blue Mountains

The District comprises 1st Blaxland, 1st Springwood, 1st Hazelbrook and 1st Blackheath – there are currently 35 Joeys, 72 Cubs, 95 Scouts, 29 Venturers, 10 Rovers and 60 Leaders. Blaxland's numbers have increased to the stage that a second Joey Mob and a second Cub Pack has been started with a view to a second Scout Troop towards the end of the year.

The challenge for the District this year will be to reopen 1st Leura which was closed due to the inability to recruit new leaders despite an almost one year time frame.

In March the Blue Mountains Fellowship was formed with an initial enrolment of 13 members – comprising both uniformed and layside persons.

All groups were busy during the year – holding activities within the group as well as attending District, Region and Branch activities. Activities included, Springwood Foundation Day, Blackheath Rhododendron Festival, Anzac Day, Vietnam Veterans Day, Cub swimming night, Billy Kart Derby, District canoe day, District Camp, Region Jamborette etc. In the Venturers, the Nomads from Hazelbrook were the winners of Waratah 2008. After twelve years Springwood Troop were thrilled to win the trophy at the District Camp in early 2009.

Fundraising included chocolate drive, BBQs at Bunnings, sausage sizzles at community functions/fetes, donations from local service clubs, councillors and the Telstra Foundation.

During the year we said farewell to Margaret Finch, Mark Armstrong and Brett Henderson from the District Team – my thanks to them for their dedication and service during their time in Scouting.

In the youth sections, Mitchell Woolfenden (Blaxland) achieved his Queen's Scout, Angelique Lynch (Blaxland) her Grey Wolf and Ben Lawrence (Hazelbrook) his Scout Medallion.

To Melissa (DCSL), the Leaders, the Parents who lent their support during the year, my thanks for a job well done in bringing Scouting to the youth of the Mountains and 'Building a Better Future'.

Paul Roach

District Commissioner

Hills South

Over the last twelve months Hills South have had a new DC appointed, Gavan Hall transferred from DCSL.

Joey numbers are good in the 3 registered Mobs and with Kellyville leaders training Joeys there are on the way. Currently the Mobs are working on their buddy

badge and there have been a few Promise badges presented. They have enjoyed and participated in a successful but damp Joey Fun Day and the Joeys seem full of enthusiasm and are enjoying a wide range of activities. They also attended the regional Joey Mob Holiday.

Cubs are going strong, there have been a few Grey Wolf awards presented over the last twelve months. Most Packs have good numbers and good leader bases with new leaders coming through. A successful District camp was held in October at Cataract. All Packs are enjoying a wide range of interesting and varied activities and are getting out and about. There was also representation at the regional Cub Cook Off final in September '08. Packs also made some interesting and picturesque banners for Wombat's Challenge with the winner being 1st Balcombe Heights Pack.

Scouts have been busy over the last twelve months. Numbers are good. They had a successful district camp in November '08 at Mitchell Park. They have participated in Scout Hike, State Rally and Jamborettes. Jamboree preparation is well under way in all troops with good numbers attending. Activities in all groups are wide and varied and the youth are full of enthusiasm.

Venturer numbers are lower than expected but we are working on ways to improve and consolidate numbers. Venturers have competed at Dragonskin, assisted at Jamborettes and all have had a good time. Although numbers are low, the enthusiasm is good and the activities are both exciting and challenging to the youth.

In general the District has participated in ANZAC Day parades in Castle Hill, Galston and Sydney. The majority of groups are participating in Job Week. Youth members are enjoying a wide range of activities both indoor and outdoor. There is good progression from Joeys through to Scouts. A constant flow of new Leaders seems to be occurring. One to two groups need numbers boosted in one section but they are actively trying to address this situation.

Gavan Hall

District Commissioner

Holroyd

There has been some movement amongst the leaders in this District in so far as they have taken on different roles to that in which they were originally warranted.

I trust you all enjoy your new roles in Scouting, and that your enthusiasm will continue to assist the youth members of this District.

During the past year the Scouts of Holroyd have participated in the Holroyd Festival Parade, flown the Flag at the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremonies and also put on a display at the Australia Day Festivities at Merrylands Oval, many thanks to those leaders and youth members who assisted to make this a memorable day.

To the youth members, it is very pleasing to see the level of badge work being achieved in this District, keep up the good work.

Congratulations to all the Leaders of this District for the work that you have all put in to maintain the level of good Scouting being achieved in this District and special congratulations to those Leaders who received recognition in last years World Scout Day awards.

Ron Brown

District Commissioner

Parramatta

Unfortunately during the year we lost a valued member of our team when Val Walker passed away on 10 May 2009. She will be missed and the district was well represented at her funeral.

- Most Groups celebrated the 100 years of Scouting in Australia and attended the Region Celebration in June 2008 at Bundilla. A good time was had by all
- The district swimming carnival was conducted at Parramatta pool in February 2009 and was well attended by cubs and scouts and were represented for the first time by the Joey Section. A Founders Day ceremony preceded the carnival and was well received by uniformed members and parents.
- The Scout Section attended the GWSR Jamborette on the Queens Birthday long weekend and whilst there was some rain it was nothing like the previous year.

- The number of new leaders who have commenced their training for various groups in our district is pleasing. I have had the pleasure to observe many of them on the training courses. Keep up the good work.
- Groups again participated in the Anzac Day Services at various locations around the district.
- Most scout sections are hard at work getting prepared for the Jamboree at Cataract Park in January 2010. Groups are also busily fundraising to help the youth members and leaders who are attending.

A special thank you must go to all the leaders in the district for the amount of hard work they put in to give the very best scouting to our young people. Without these dedicated people we would not be able to operate as a volunteer association.

The aim for 2009/2010 is to fill the remaining vacant positions on the district team to be able to better support the leaders and youth members of Parramatta District.

Neville Henderson

District Commissioner (Acting)



Parramatta District Raft Race Day - 15th November 2008
(Photo courtesy Myriam Drury)



No report from Penrith or Hawkesbury Districts

ACTIVITIES

Radio, Science & Technology continues to be booked out every week and 6 months ahead. A small charge is now in place to replace used items. Well done John Leahy, Andy Walker and Karl Humpheys.

Rock related (caving, abesiling, rock-climbing and canyoning) continue to be well patronised. This year we have added to our list of instructors and more people are becoming qualified. This helps our small teams to function. There is now in place a qualification called horizontal caving, for people that want to cave but do not want to abseil in caves. Well done to all the rock team led by Rick Jamieson and caving led by Carey Barlow. This year our numbers are down on calendar courses but made up by Scout proficiency courses. Please if you want a course on a particular date please ask before we put the calender together. This will happen in October so first in best dressed.

Water Activities last year was our busiest ever although at the end our sailing course did not eventuate in the school holidays, usually we have too many. Cost is \$50 for 5 days sailing this would be worth over \$300 per day and we are accredited with AYF. Our Region Fun Day on the Water in December saw 300 people attending, and abseiling from a tree for Cubs and Joeys. We have also helped Joeys run a fun day on the water for 150. This year canoe numbers are up but sailing has stopped, we would like to know why? We have ordered 4 new canoes from the Jamboree. Remember the course fees you pay are the cheapest around and they help us buy equipment and repair our existing boats. Remember when we started with Dawn McGuire we had no boats and no trained leaders, we now have 8 sailing boats, 11 canoes and we have given canoes to groups that we have repaired from groups closing.

The Jamboree water activities will be on the harbour at Chowder Bay, some leaders have expressed an interest and will be living in old army barracks that have been renovated.

State office has purchased a climbing wall that is portable and at present will live at Bundilla. We will need a team of people that have abseil leader or above qualifications to man the climbing when we have special events, I am hoping the Venturer section will have a look at this. We have printed an Activities booklet that is also available for download from

the website. All leaders should receive a copy. Thank you to Matt Thompson for the work he has put into this information booklet. Thank you also to the NSW Branch Commissioner (Activities) Geoff Archer for organising the printing of these booklets. I would like to thank the boating team John van den Burg, Martin Mahoney and myself. Thank you to the level 3 persons that helped on our courses.

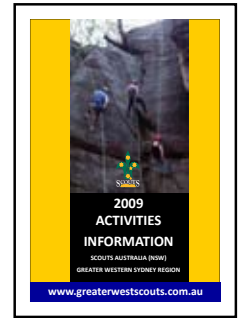
Thank you to Jan Carter who collected all the money and paperwork and organised the nominal roles for all our activities.

Keith Travers
Region Commissioner (Activities)

Bushwalking

A total of 26 certificates were issued this year with the details shown in the accompanying table. A number of qualifications were issued to allow youth member badgework requirements to be completed. This includes the Venturer Scout expeditions, Scout green cord qualifications and Cub Scout grey wolf awards. The qualifications can not be issued to Cubs directly but to someone taking responsibility for the walk. With the availability of walks and the aims and principles of Scouting, it is surprising that more outdoor opportunities are not taken in the general Scouting program. Like most things, leaders can be innovative with bushwalking activities. All walks do not need to be overnight or far away from Scout halls. Even moonlight hikes for a few hours replacing a meeting night can be a big hit with kids. It just requires a little care with location and timing.

All bushwalks undertaken, involving Scouts within the GWS Region ended safely, if not successfully. There is considerable paperwork required for Venturer expeditions and Scout green cord hikes. Both pre and post walk paperwork needs to be completed to an appointed examiner's satisfaction. It is nice to be able to report the safe return of all the walk participants during 2008. While paperwork is an important component of bushwalking in Scouting, we can report a 100% success rate in the outdoor safety component.



The upper Blue Mountains was again a popular destination for 2008. Mt Solitary is still a big hit and a number of Venturer and Scout outings utilised the Grose Valley between Mt Victoria and Blackheath. Blue Gum forest is again open, after bushfires, and still the crossroads for many Grose Valley trails. Sections of the navigation unchallenging Six Foot Track is still utilised for training/practice walks by a number of Units and Troops. There was also an increase in the number of walks in the lower Blue Mountains, specifically the Glenbrook Gorge area. This area offers a number of options with 2 and 3 day outings and is easily accessible with public transport.

Outside the Region, areas used included the Bundeena to Otford Coastal walk and the Heathcote/Waterfall area in The Royal National Park and sections of The Great Northern Walk both North and South of the Hawkesbury River.

It would be nice to see more bushwalking during 2009. Walks can be undertaken just for enjoyment and experience, rather than badge driven. Youth members invariably find that a few days in the bush can be fun. It is a cheap, safe and easily accessible activity that can do wonders for everyones confidence and esteem.

Details of assessments are:

Award / Appointment	Preliminary Bushwalking Leader	Bushwalking Leader	Bushwalking Instructor	Bushwalking Examiner
Scouts	1	11		
Venturers		1		
Rovers				
Adults	1	11		1
Total	2	23		1

Frank Barr
Region Bushwalking Activities Coordinator

Radio, Science & Technology

This past year we have managed to see an extra 150 scouts on weekly activity nights, thanks to Leaders who arranged two sections to meet on the same night. We have developed and trialed a 'Hover' night, based on friction, for Cubs and Scouts, and 'Laser' night for Venturers and Rovers. We now have 17 different programs based around 8 science themes,

tailored to section ability, which we improve as new demonstrations and Leader feedback suggest.

The Joey Fun Day at Bundilla was a sunny day, so I mounted an old film camera in a cardboard box to create a dark space over the joeys head so they could see the inverted image on the translucent screen in the back of the camera. We also had a large yellow remote control crane, and a PET bottle Terrarium of Fly Trap carnivorous plants.

Our Base at Bents Basin Jamborette in June featured Karl Humphries with his radios and impressive aerial tower, a simple Analogue computer and a live "Elephant Nose" electric fish. I had placed wires inside the tank and the Scouts were able to listen to his pulses on an amplifier and see the signal on the oscilloscope.

I attended the Stanwell Park Leaders Conference in November to demonstrate aspects of the Activity. The display building was a little remote from the main hall and attendance at our base was either too few or overcrowded. Country Leaders were interested in the range of Science programs I offered, but frustrated by not being able to access them. The venue, food and company was good.

Karl passed the radio exam this year and now has his full call sign and has joined the Blue Mountains Club, which meets in the Blaxland Scout Hall. We will be promoting JOTA through them and directing Scouts to their Foundation Radio Licence classes .

Recently a young Joey Leader at Winston Hills expressed interest in joining the Science team, and I look forward to her involvement to expand and invigorate our programs.

We continue to be fully booked till the end of this year, and as far into 2010 as I can promise. Retirement is looming for me and I depend on CSIRO for their support and materials for these activities.

Thanks to Andy Walker, Karl Humphries, and Mick Arnsby for their enthusiasm in expounding the science of nature to our youth, to the Section Leaders who offered support and advice, and to the Leaders and Amateur Radio operators supporting JOTA in the GWS Region.

John Leahy
Radio, Science & Technology
Activity Leader



Rock-Related

Rock Activities in the Region have enjoyed another satisfactory year.

Our attendance at the Scout Jamborette last year was again successful – this is a great opportunity to interest large numbers of Scouts in rock activities. The Cub Fun Day is also a great activity for us to be involved in.

Abseil courses have not been well attended, but Scout Proficiency Badge courses are getting more popular – both the ones on the rock program and the special courses that individual troops request. We have managed to locate some very good new locations for abseil training – some of them more suitable for the Scout section than the traditional places.

Our excellent and capable group of Abseil Instructors has again increased in numbers this year. Also the Canyoning Instructor situation remains healthy. Caving has also been good this year.

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

The gear situation continues to be satisfactory, with a recent purchase of gear being most appreciated.

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

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

I would also like to express my thanks to Jan Carter at Bundilla for the great help and encouragement she has continued to give us in the last year.

Rick Jamieson

Region Rock-Related
Activities Coordinator



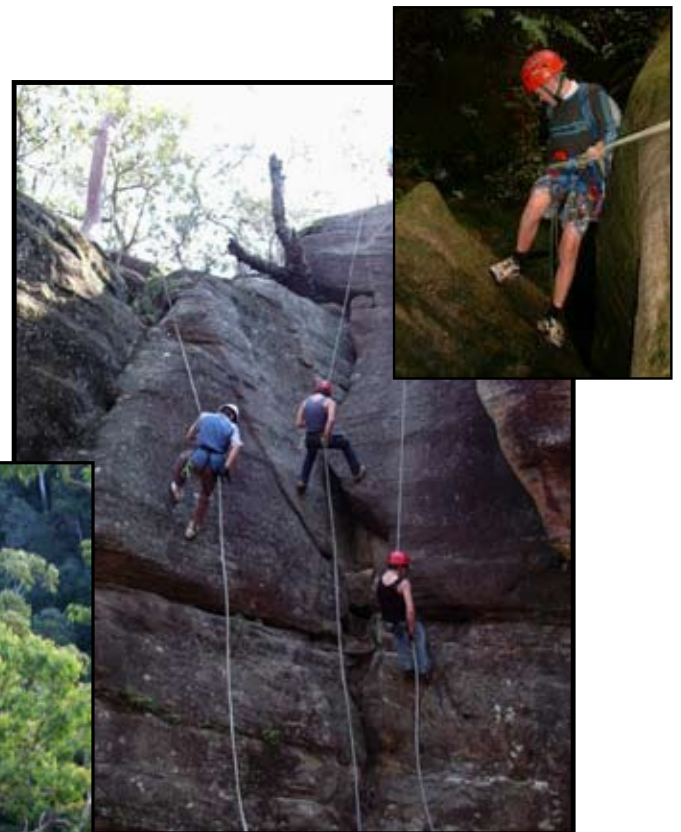
First Aid

During the past year, event first aid support was provided to GWSR Jamborette, NSW Dragon Skin, NSW State Scout Rally and the GWSR Water Activities Fun Day; many members from the St John Ambulance Scout Region assisted at these events. We are fortunate that these events were run in a safe manor and all attendances to the first aid posts were of a minor nature.

During the year, two Remote Area First Aid courses for Scouters and Venturers and one Preliminary First Aid courses for Scouts were run within the region to supplement the Senior First Aid courses that are conducted at Bundilla. Several First Aid activity and testing nights were also conducted for Scout Troops.

Contact Allan Mason on 0401 324 058 for further information on Remote and Preliminary First Aid courses for GWSR. Contact the GWSR office for information on Senior First Aid courses within the region.

Dr Josette Docherty and Allan Mason
Region First Aid Team



Cumberland Gang Show

During last year we increased publicity to Scout Groups but the percentage of audience attending the performances from the Scout Family has declined whilst the number of uniform members in the Greater Western Sydney Region have in fact increased. We also suffered from the World Youth Day in Sydney which reflected in a drop off in numbers attending the performances.

Aside from the above, another great year for Cumberland Gang Show (Our 39th season) with 10 spectacular performances at Parramatta Riverside Theatres during the July school holidays.

The show featured many new items written by our talented gang members and probably the highlight of the season was the excellent singing from the cast members. A total audiences of over 6500 people enjoyed the show and many commented this was the best show ever.

Our workshop teams have recommenced visiting both Scout and Guide sections, running the program for the night and giving the youth members an insight to performing arts. Each team is made up of 3 – 4 gang members and the size of the groups varies between 15 and 30 youth members.

Season 2009 has started with a “bang” with the first rehearsal in March held at Castle Hill High School. The day was run as a performing arts workshop/fun day with a performance for the parents during the evening session.

The two rehearsal camps have been held and the show is now in the polishing stage heading towards the performance season at Parramatta Riverside Theatres during the July school holidays. In fact today is the bump in at the theatre.

We look forward to full houses at the theatre as this is the 40th Anniversary of the show, having started in humble circumstances at Ryde High School in 1970. Special souvenirs will be available and a luncheon will be held on 19 July. This year the program will have many old numbers which have been popular with audiences.

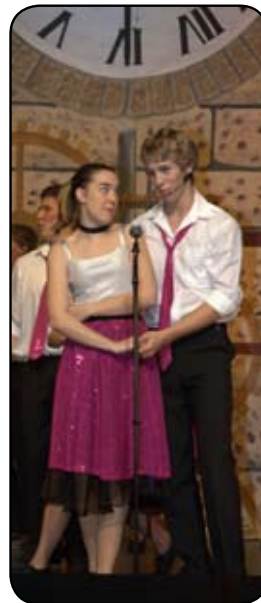
Congratulations to Peter Lee, Lyall Wood and Matthew Thompson who were recognised in the 2008 World Scout Day Awards. Well done to you all.

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. Also who could forget the assistance given to us by the two Jans and Anne at Bundilla who are always willing to assist when asked.

Yours in Scouting

Neville Henderson

Human Resources Director



ADULT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Training in 2008 was very busy for the team from our Region. It began by assisting Distance Learning leaders to complete their paperwork. Two workshops were held at Springwood Scout Hall. The first to complete BL1 workbooks the second for BL2 workbooks. To all those involved thank you for assisting with catering and hall. Then finishing with organising the Training Team conference for February 2009.

Taking training to the people became something the team needed to give thought to and after having a considerable number of leaders sign up in the Penrith District to become leaders a BL1 course was planned for February 2009.

This proved a very successful move with 33 leaders on the course. A BL2 course was then organised with almost as many attending. My thanks go to **** SUPPRESSED **** and a very able assistant G in organising the catering and to 1st Penrith for the use of their hall and equipment and of course to the team of presenters who availed themselves over 4 weekends.

Thursdays

Introductory Interviews continued on the first Thursday with around 200 people signing up to become leaders in our groups.

The fourth Thursday of the month has become a help night as well as a completion night for new leaders to complete their training. As a result there was an increase in woodbadge recipients which is very positive for our Region.

Team changes

David Robinson has come on board as Blacktown District Leader – Training taking over from Mike Richards who is now assisting as a leader in Kings Langley Group.

Thank you

A number of people need to be acknowledged for their continued help as presenters, mentors or with interviews: Frank Barr, Kathy Cuneo, Neville Henderson, Adam McLean, Erica Young, Gavan Hall, Cassie Rec, Sandy Knox, Anne Thompson, Adam McLean, David Robinson, and Aafke Futchter-Hall.

As assessors and Course Leaders: Jeff Hook, Terry Darragh, Allan Mason, and Sandra Parker.

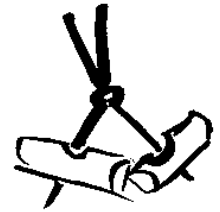
To my team Aakfe Furtcher-Hall who has been just a great support for her District and to me and to Terry Darragh who steps in when I am unable and looks after Penrith and Mountain's districts.

Jan Carter who reminds me "we need more kits" and processes all the many sheets of paper for our leaders and to Jan Playford for her help and support through some very difficult moments.

To all those who received their woodbadges in the last 12 months Bravo.

Ann Pounder

Region Commissioner
(Adult Training & Development)



GWSR Woodbadge Recipients for 2008

Cub Section

Lorraine Shaw
Craig Kennedy

Scout Section

Allen Staples
Greg Freeman
Jo Ollerenshaw
Duncan Watts
Paul O'loughlin
Maree Jeffs
Scott Tremlett

Venturer Section

Mark Absalom
Corey Olufsen
Dorothy Bell

Rover Section

Jenny Wardell

SCOUT FELLOWSHIPS

Hawkesbury Black Horse Scout Fellowship

It gives me great pleasure in submitting the Presidents Report for the Black Horse Scout Fellowship to the Annual General Meeting 2009.

Our members have been active in providing resources across all Branch, Region and District activities. They included Slam boree, Cuboree, Jamborette, Branch Rally and World Scout Day.

We also cooked up a storm at the Kids Charity Ute Muster in August 2008.

Many thanks go to all Members who assisted in these activities, and special mention to Caroline and Chris for the preparation of the menu and purchasing the necessary supplies for the Catering of the Branch Rally August 2009. Also a mention of Graeme Hodgkins and Gary Riches for their assistance at the Rally.

The Fellowship agreed late last year to Organise Founders Day for 2009. Unfortunately this event was washed out. The Fellowship will plan the activity for 2010

Fellowship members were involved with the capture of the Alligator at Merimbula at Christmas time.

We have increased our membership by 3 with another ready to sign, so hopefully we will grow even bigger during 2009.

The Fellowship is in a good financial position.

Ian Cartwright

Chairperson

Black Horse Scout Fellowship

Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship

Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship has continued to consolidate during the past twelve months with constant membership around 20. Because we maintained our membership numbers

What is Scout Fellowship?

Scout Fellowship is designed to provide opportunities for members to enjoy mutual fellowship, maintain active membership within

the Scout Movement and continue the ideals of service to Scouting and the Community.

The principle aims of the Scout Fellowship are...

- To retain existing Members
- To attract new Members
- To provide a social peer network



we were awarded the Regional Stop the Drop Scarf. While most members are involved in the cast and crew of Cumberland Gang Show, we continually seek to expand our membership base. The year has seen much activity and excitement as our members have planned for this special year of celebration.

The Fellowship's major activity this year has been in preparing for the 40th year of Cumberland Gang Show. The Fellowship is organising a special celebratory luncheon to be held at Blacktown RSL on Sunday 19th July. We anticipate several hundred people will attend to celebrate and reminisce. We have arranged special 40th anniversary souvenirs including hoodies emblazoned with the 40th anniversary logo, red wool touch fashion scarves with the 40th anniversary logo, black baseball caps with the 40th anniversary logo, 40th anniversary badges and a commemorative port and port glasses. A highlight will be the publication of the 40 year history of Cumberland Gang Show in booklet form and a pictorial history of Cumberland Gang Show on DVD. These have been based on many interviews with members of the show from differing periods of the 40 years. The enthusiasm drive and organisational skills of our founding and subsequent members has been most apparent.

In June we held our second trivia night on Friday 13th June. It was a great success with 80 people enjoying the atmosphere generated by the haunted house backdrop, decorations and fancy dress. The money

raised will help us to meet the costs of the history project and other 40th anniversary ventures.

The Fellowship participated in the Regional Celebration of 100 years of Scouting in Australia at Bundilla by running a stall selling cold drinks. Subsequently in August we catered for food and drinks at the Blacktown District billy cart derby at Rooty Hill.

Our social program included attendance at the Holroyd Musical Society's performance of Les Miserables in May, a show recovery dinner in July and an evening of Putt Putt in March. Unfortunately it was necessary to cancel our Christmas dinner in November due to several members recuperating from recent surgery.

Many of our members are also active in other scouting appointments. Steve and I accepted positions on the Executive of the Branch Scout Fellowship Committee as Treasurer and Vice Chairman. Some members provided support to the District Leaders Conference and DragonSkin. Holroyd District members participated in the Holroyd Australia Day Celebrations, flag raising and Holroyd Festival parade. The Chairperson was honoured to be awarded the Distinguished Service Award in the 2008 World Scout Day Awards.

I would like to thank the many members who have greatly contributed to the special anniversary projects we are undertaking this year. I believe our Fellowship will continue to enjoy another exciting year in 2009-2010.

Lyll Wood
Chairperson
Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship



Pinnaroo

Scout Fellowship

Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship has had again another busy year with Service in:

Catering for Palaver, catering for the National Training Council, catering for Cub Scout Leadership Courses, assisting at Bundilla Working Bees, Map and Compass instruction at 10 year old Cub Scout Camp, Gilwell Reunion Displays, Centenary Event displays, Childrens Festival at Bankstown, Base at Centenary Camp, Scout Instruction, Mini Agoonoree, Cub Cook-off , Samaritans Purse and Carol Singing.

And Social: High Tea at the Hydro-Majestic, Zig Zag Railway Tour, North Avoca weekend and "Out 'n' about" outing to Watson's Bay.

The program for the next 12 months will again be full and busy. I encourage all to participate in these activities and have 'fun' in Fellowship.

Gordon Bush
Chairperson
Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship

Blue Mountains

Scout Fellowship

The Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship was formed this year by a mix of current Leaders and ex-members of the Association. The Fellowship is developing a diverse program for the coming year, with activities including service to other Scout groups, social evenings, basic canoeing and an extended hike.

The Fellowship has a membership of fourteen (and counting), with the first seven being formally invested at the 2009 GWSR Jamborette.

James Goodwin
Chairperson
Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship



INTERNATIONAL

During the year being the 100th Anniversary of Australian Scouting the International Team were in demand and mounted displays at the following activities:

- Regional Jamborette, Bents Basin
- Branch Gilwell Reunion, Pennant Hills
- 1st Toongabbie 100th Anniversary Day, Bundilla
- Training Team Conference, Pennant Hills
- Centenary Dinner, Sydney Showground
- Sydney North Region Gilwell Reunion, Pennant Hills
- Branch District Leaders Conference, Stanwell Tops
- 1st Engadine 60th Anniversary Day, Engadine
- Australia Day, Merrylands Park
- Bexley Coptic Group, Bexley

I also attended the 100th Anniversary Dinner of the following Groups:

- 1st Leichhardt (with 1st Petersham joining in)
- 1st Hurstville

Our attendance in International Activities saw 6 of our members participate as follows:

- 38th World Scout Conference Korea
Peter Nickl Regional Commissioner International
- Scout Friendship Tour both North & South Islands New Zealand with British, Canadian & New Zealand Scouts – total 45 on tour (9 Australians)
Peter Nickl Regional Commissioner International
Sue Kebblewhite Pinnaroo Fellowship

In addition to the above, four were involved as follows:

- Lachlan Lawlor, 1st Riverstone, Japan
- Tiffany Lawlor, 1st Riverstone, Japan
- Lynne Lawlor, 1st Riverstone, Japan
- Trevor Fowler, 1st Greystanes, Canada

At the Chief Commissioner Conference during September 2008 and February 2009 the following presented reports on their experience overseas:

- 38th World Scout Conference Korea
Peter Nickl, Region Commissioner (International)

- Japanese host family visited (14th Nippon Jamboree) Japan
Lachlan Lawlor, 1st Riverstone
- Scout Friendship Tour, New Zealand
Presented on behalf of the Australian Contingent by Jordan Aiken and Andrew Grinter, 1st Engadine

The Tasman Scout and Venturer Exchange Program unfortunately had little enquires this year however while I was on the Scout Friendship Tour of New Zealand I was able to meet up with new interested Leaders in Auckland and Christchurch covering both North and South Islands who were more than willing to participate in the program. Our previous long time Leaders in New Zealand have either retired or unfortunately Gone Home!

During the year I presented to Adam McLean, 1st Blaxland his Explorers Award (20th New Zealand Venture).

We have had three Groups experience overseas "Scouts" participating in their activities, 1st Ermington, Scout Leaders from USA, 2nd Baulkham Hills Rover Crew, a Rover from Mexico and 1st Toongabbie the International Commissioner from Bangladesh.

While I was in Korea for the 38th World Scout Conference I had the opportunity to join "ATAS" which stands for Association of Top Achiever Scouts.

Finally we have been very successful in supplying old uniforms to our Scouting friends in Vanuatu which Scouts Australia, New South Wales Branch is responsible for.

I doubt we would achieve so much without the continued support assistance, commitment and encouragement from members on my team.

In closing, on behalf of the International Team I would like to thank Jan Carter for all her assistance throughout the year and Jan Playford for her continual support of what we are achieving in our Region on behalf of International Scouting.

Peter Nickl
Region Commissioner
(International)



REGION OFFICE

Again the office has survived another year, I have to say a big thanks to all the groups for their efficiency in getting their AGMs over and in most cases all papers and cheques have been submitted. State Headquarters are pleased with our process as we have very few Asset Management Fees outstanding. (Building & Contents Insurance) and I would think by the end of June we will have all processed. The same with Membership Fees although we do have a slight problem with Groups not paying their quarterly invoices on time. There should be no reason why they don't have the money as the parents should pay the fee and joining fee before they are invested.

Sad to see Guildford Hall was burned down, it was an old group and a lot of history was lost. Many other groups are assessing their numbers and there may be amalgamations and hopefully with the combined numbers those groups will take off and expand. The workload has increased with a lot more activities being organised by Region and with the assistance of the "Office Junior" we manage to get things done.

Have you checked the website? You can get the Bulletin electronically try first or second week each month and it will be there. Good work Matthew and Anne.

STAR project is still in the pipeline and I think training will be carried out soon. That may make things easier.

Please remember we are very happy to help Groups with their paperwork. If you think you may need more time to talk, please ring for an appointment.

Thanks to all the Commissioners for their assistance and patience.

Jan Carter (Jan the Elder)
Region Office Manager



BUNDILLA

I cannot believe that another year has passed so quickly, there has been a number of changes here at Bundilla. The Bundy Club has met frequently and you can see the improvements to the grounds it would be good to have some more people attend as there is some painting to do. Thanks to all. Thanks also to Former Prime Minister John Howard we now have 3 water tanks at Bundilla. There will be a prize for who can guess how many flushes it will take for me to empty a 32 thousand liter tank.

Booking are generally steady and it is good to see a lot of our groups utilizing the grounds.

Hopefully Bundilla will still be here next year, during the year there has been extensive work in the little reserve next door which has caused the white ants to become very active.

All the buildings and dormitories are quite badly damaged they are being treated and when that is done the cost to repair will be very expensive.

One major change is our breeding tree, sadly it had to be removed, all the regular users are still coming but are wondering just where the heck their tree has gone.

Some 15 years ago, I used to bring my grandson to Bundilla and when we came through the gate he would say, "Nana who built this place?" I would say "God built this place" his reply was "God I wuv this place". And so do I.

Jan Carter (Jan the Elder)
Centre Manager



SCOUTING ON THE INTERNET

Greater Western Sydney Region

www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

Related Scouting websites...

GWSR Joeys

www.gwsjoeys.org.au

GWSR Rovers

www.gwsrovers.com.au

Cumberland Gang Show

www.gangshow.asn.au

Scouts Australia - NSW

www.nsw.scouts.com.au

NSW Rovers

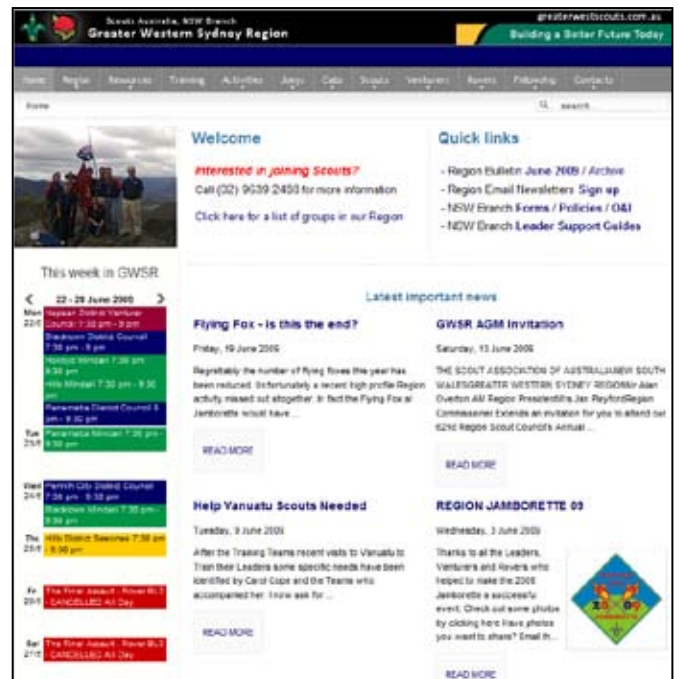
www.nswrovers.com.au

Scouts Australia

www.scouts.com.au

Rovers Australia

www.rovers.com.au



16th October 2008 - GWS Region Awards Dinner ...

Our very own Greater Western Sydney Region website was launched to the fanfare of 'Star Wars'.

Since then, the website has continued to develop into a valuable resource for all youth and leaders in our Region. The calendar is the biggest feature and allows information about upcoming events to be shared among the sections, an important tool when planning and coordinating events.

Email lists have been setup to distribute the Region newsletter 'Bulletin' each month - are you receiving it via email? If not, head to the website to sign up!

There are lots of other interesting bits of information, links to NSW State resources & forms, and a growing collection of leader resources. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, don't hesitate to email it to me.

I'm looking forward to continuing to develop this website so that it becomes the ultimate resource for Scouting in Greater Western Sydney Region.

Matt Thompson
Region Webmaster

webmaster@greaterwestscouts.com.au

www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

THE GROUPS AND CREWS OF GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION

Blue Mountains District

1st Blackheath Scout Group
1st Blaxland Scout Group
1st Blaxland Rover Crew "Kalangadoo"
1st Hazelbrook Scout Group
1st Leura Scout Group (in recess)
1st Springwood Scout Group

Blacktown District

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

Hawkesbury District

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

Hills South District

1st Balcombe Heights Scout Group
1st Baulkham Hills Rover Crew
1st Castle Hill Scout Group
1st Dural Scout Group
1st Kellyville Scout Group
2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Group
2nd Baulkham Hills Rover Crew
2nd Castle Hill Scout Group
2nd Castle Hill Rover Crew
4th Castle Hill Scout Group
West Pennant Hills Valley Scout Group

Holroyd District

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

Parramatta District

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

Penrith City District

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

Scout Fellowships

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



THE SCOUT PRAYER

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

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



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