

THE  
ADVENTURE  
BEGINS

Scouts Australia, NSW  
Greater Western Sydney Region  
74<sup>th</sup> Annual Report  
April 2020 - March 2021



Scouts  
NSW

[www.greaterwestscouts.com.au](http://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 Rahilah Muslim 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

## Gang Show

Cumberland Gang Show

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 2020-2021

REGION PRESIDENT -----	Ross Grove
REGION CHAIRPERSON -----	Debbie Howlett
REGION TREASURER -----	Eleanore Smid / Ross Howlett
REGION COMMISSIONER -----	David Stopps JP
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER -----	Geoff Henderson
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER -----	Tony Dent
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER -----	Stephen Wallace
ASSISTANT DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER ---	Melanie Dimmock
REGION OFFICE MANAGER -----	Wendy Dimmock

## Region Commissioners

RC JOEY SCOUTS -----	Gabie Thompson
RC CUB SCOUTS -----	Gabie Thompson
RC SCOUTS -----	Tracey Stopps
RC VENTURER SCOUTS -----	Brian Nelson
RC ROVERS -----	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 / Elena Lombardi
DC BLUE MOUNTAINS -----	Steve Wallace / Jodie Astley
DC HAWKESBURY -----	Phil Heinrich
DC HILLS -----	Terry Brooke
DC HOLROYD -----	Ron Brown
DC PARRAMATTA -----	Tracey Hansford
DC PENRITH CITY -----	Steve Wallace / Jodie Astley

## 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 2020 Annual General Meeting .....	4
Region Commissioner .....	6
Region Chairperson .....	6
Deputy Region Commissioner	
Program & Activities.....	7
Operations & Youth Safety .....	8
Region Financial Report.....	9
Youth Sections	
Joey Scouts .....	10
Cub Scouts .....	11
Scouts .....	13
Venturer Scouts .....	14
Rovers.....	15
2020 Adult Recognition Awards .....	16
Member Support.....	18
Communications & PR.....	18
Activities .....	19
Cumberland Gang Show .....	20
Radio, Science & Technology .....	21
Districts	
Blacktown .....	22
Blue Mountains .....	22
Hills .....	23
Holroyd .....	24
Parramatta.....	24
Penrith City.....	25
Scout Fellowships	
Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship ....	26
Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship .....	27
Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship .....	27



**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 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

### Minutes of the 73rd Annual Report Presentation of the Region Council held on Sunday 14th June, 2020 commencing at 2.30pm on Zoom.

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.

APOLOGIES - Suzanne Cornell, Ann Pounder and Peter Nickl OAM

**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the 72nd Annual General Meeting of the Region Council held on Sunday, 2nd June, 2019 were circulated in the Annual Report and adopted.

MOVED: Geoff Henderson    SECONDED: Tracey Stopps

**2. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**Financial Statement**

As supplied in the Annual Report

**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

Tony Dent, Deputy Region Commissioner

**3. A FEW WORDS FROM OUR SPECIAL GUEST - MR PHIL CRUTCHLEY, Deputy Chair, Scouts NSW Board**

Spoke about branch current challenges being: Historical Claims, Property Matters, Financial Situation, Membership (currently in mode of retention, but will move to recruitment mode) after COVID-19. Looking to a new "normal" for the whole Branch.

**4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

REGION PRESIDENT	Mr Ross Grove	TRUSTEES	The Region Commissioner
REGION CHAIR	Mrs Debbie Howlett		Mr Peter Stieme
REGION TREASURER	Mrs Eleanore Smid		Mr Craig Kennedy

**ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF REGION EXECUTIVE**

Mr Peter Stieme	Mr Lyall Wood AM RFD	Mr Paul Roach
Mrs Patricia Shaw	Mr Michael Majoor	Mr Damon Love
Mr Peter Nickl OAM	Mr Craig Kennedy	Mr Glenn Duncan

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**

MR PETER NICKL OAM ..... REGION COMMISSIONER INTERNATIONAL  
 MR DAMON LOVE ..... REGION ROVER COUNCIL CHAIR  
 MRS PATRICIA SHAW ..... EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER  
 MR PETER STIEME ..... DELEGATE PINNAROO SCOUT FELLOWSHIP  
 MR LYALL WOOD AM RFD ..... DELEGATE CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW FELLOWSHIP  
 MR PAUL ROACH ..... DELEGATE BLUE MOUNTAINS SCOUT FELLOWSHIP  
 VACANT ..... DELEGATE WARATAH ACTIVITY SCOUT FELLOWSHIP  
 VACANT ..... DELEGATE HAWKESBURY BLACK HORSE SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

MR MICHAEL MAJOORS ..... DELEGATE PARRAMATTA DISTRICT  
 MR GLENN DUNCAN ..... DELEGATE PENRITH DISTRICT  
 MR CRAIG KENNEDY ..... DELEGATE BLACKTOWN DISTRICT  
 MR PAUL ROACH ..... DELEGATE BLUE MOUNTAINS DISTRICT  
 VACANT ..... DELEGATE HAWKESBURY DISTRICT  
 VACANT ..... DELEGATE HILLS DISTRICT  
 VACANT ..... DELEGATE HOLROYD DISTRICT

**DELEGATES TO NSW STATE COUNCIL**

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

MOVED: David Stopps    SECONDED: Ron Brown

Debbie Howlett - Special Thank You to Pam Gaske  
 (long term Minute Taker to Region Executive upon her retirement)

**5. 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:** Matt Thompson                      **SECONDED:** Carole Cope

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

Challenge in COVID 19, Bushfires, Drought etc in respect to recruit/retain adult leaders and youth members.  
 Thanks for loyalty to Scouts NSW.  
 Resilience Survey Results and success of Scouting in this domain.

**7. Mr Ross Grove thanked everyone for their attendance.**

The meeting closed at 3.09pm on 14th June 2020.

## REGION COMMISSIONER

Where has the year gone? It feels like it was only yesterday that we were holding our 2020 ARP and starting out on a very uncertain year. I have to say that I couldn't be prouder of each member of our region who has embraced the opportunities available, knuckled down and made sure that we are delivering great Scouting to our Youth Members.

Thank you goes out to Ross Grove and Debbie Howlett and all the members of the Region Executive for all the work they do. It was a little trying at the start of the year with on-line meetings but no one gave up. Thank you for putting up with me.

Thank you also goes to Geoff Henderson DRC, Tony Dent DRC and Steve Wallace DRC and their teams for all the work they do. Geoff was there for me just about every time. Tracey started to get worried that we were on the phone so much.

Our great Office Manager Wendy Dimmock. I could not forget to thank her. She was locked in her office, all by herself for 6 months with no visitors but got the job done as she always does.

The start of the year was a bit slow, but then it all started to happen. I have been astounded by the amazing activities going on in the Region. We have seen so many activities: Summer Fun Days, Monopoly Run, Momentum, Joey Fun Day, not to mention all the



adventurous activities being carried out through Mark Fell and his team of bushwalkers, cavers, boaters and climbers. We are extremely lucky to have such talented and committed people in the Region and my thanks go out to all our leaders.

Coming up we have the 2021 Cumberland Gang Show – Rise Up! Even more Talent from Rob Lang and his team and the cast. I am looking forward to seeing the show.

June long weekend will see the long-awaited return of the GWS Region Jamborette. I will admit it was touch and go for a while with numbers, but in the end we have over 1,000 people coming this year to explore the Kingdoms and Empires of the Universe. I am sure it is a new record.

They say that teamwork makes the dream work and looking back over what I have reported this year, you can clearly see that teamwork is alive and well in GWS! Whether it be through the Region Activities Team, Gang Show, Wandarrahs, Seonees, Mindaris, Groups or Units it is

by working together that we are continuing to be, in my opinion, the best region in NSW. Please keep it up and keep getting involved at all levels of scouting. It is only by supporting each other and working as a team that we will continue to grow, both in our number of members and in the opportunities we offer.

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

*David Stopps JP*  
Region Commissioner

## REGION CHAIRPERSON

Bravo to all the Scouting members of GWS; leaders, youth members, parents and supporters. We have all made it through a challenging year. Scouting is well and truly alive and thriving in our Region. Why? We have leaders, Groups and parents ready to embrace what 2020 threw at us all and were creative in delivering the Scouting program to our youth. I loved hearing of all the creative measures how our Region delivered Scouting and I am proud to say we are thinking outside the square and have learnt much about ourselves and Program delivery from different facets.

We are fortunate to have such committed leaders at every level and within every District and Group within

GWS; how lucky we are to be under the auspice of David Stopps, Steve Wallace and Geoff Henderson – who have steered us through 2020; thank you to one and all from the Region at large.

As BP once famously said:

“A Scout is never taken by surprise; they know exactly what to do when anything unexpected happens. “

This is GWS in its bloom!

Yours in Scouting

*Debbie Howlett*  
Region Chairperson



## DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER - PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES



2020 has been challenging for everyone, with COVID restrictions, weather conditions and environmental constraints.

GWS region has an amazing team of Leaders starting from the ground with the Line Leaders amongst the Groups to the Leaders of the District and

Region Teams, all focusing on Scouting in those most imaginative ways.

We had Joeys overnight Camping at Home via Zoom, Cubs going on Family Journeys, Scouts working on their skills of construction and camping, Venturers working on their Adventures and Activity Skills, Rovers coming up with ways to serve not only our community but also our people in need.

I attended a number of peak award presentations throughout the year, and they were all completed while we were dealing with COVID, and that expresses the commitment of our Youth to their goal and the support our Leaders gave to each and every one of them. From Joey Challenge to BP awards we congratulate these individuals and their supporting units.

During all of this, the Region was also transitioning to the New Program, and we finally got across the line in March 2021, from our Pioneer Groups to our last Groups to change we steadily have committed our resources to the success of our Youth Members and this has shown how resilient they are.

Once we got back to some face to face scouting, it was impressive how quickly our Region Activity teams ramped up their opportunities for youth to engage, from bushwalking, water activities, rock climbing and abseiling, plus a few new activities.

We had a couple of activities we had to postpone, but that means we will make them better organised and more exciting in that time. I have to thank my team for going above and beyond in their guidance and support of the Region.

Thanks goes to

- Gabie Thompson RC Joeys/Cubs
- Tracey Stopps RC Scouts
- Brian Nelson RC Venturers

- Dave Bannon RC Rovers/Fellowships
- Mark Fell RC Activities

Without this team guiding their teams, we as a Region would not be in the position we are in today; a very strong and active Region that has a lot to offer our youth and have some much of our youth engaged in Scouting and growing our numbers with good programs.

We sadly have to remember we lost a great Scouting friend and mentor in Peter Nickl OAM (RC International), who was always at Jamborette with his displays and the many stories of our past achievements. He will be greatly missed.

In these final words, I would Like to thank our Region Commissioner David Stopps for his direction and support during what has been a year to remember.

Yours in Scouting

*Tony Dent*

Deputy Region Commissioner (Program & Activities)



### Wood Badge Recipients April 2020 - March 2021

Christopher Craven - 1st Cambridge Park

Tracey Priest - 1st Cambridge Park

Philip Heinrich - Hawkesbury District

Naomi Davey - 1st Westmead

Laura Kahn - 1st Riverstone

Robert Rigby - 1st South Penrith

Khyllie Brown - 2nd Kings Langley

Damon Love - GWS Region

Michael Gibbs - 1st Mt Druitt

## DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER - OPERATIONS & YOUTH SAFETY

The role of Deputy Region Commissioner (Operations & Youth Safety) was created in September 2020 as part of a realignment of the Region Team. Having been appointed into this role at that time, it has been an eye-opener in terms of the many and diverse areas that the role covers.



I am fortunate to have a great team who work together to ensure that GWS Scouts provide a safe and inclusive, welcoming environment for all within Greater Western Sydney where all members can get the most out of their Scouting Journey

Our Property team, Elena and Jodie have been working hard to visit every Scout Property within the region and establish a base-line condition report. From this report, we will be able to identify areas of weakness as a region and become more pro-active in managing the region property portfolio, as well as supporting groups to keep on top of the requirements for each property. This is a significant piece of work and the team needs to be commended for the work completed so far.

In late 2020, Ross Howlett took on the role of Region Treasurer and hit the ground running. He has been working tirelessly to reduce the overdue accounts within the region and ensure we remain financially sound. There is a steep learning curve in understanding the many aspects of the Region and Ross has done a fantastic job settling into the role.

Workplace Health & Safety has taken the biggest hit over the past 12 months, having to manage all the normal cases that arise as well as the Region management of the Covid-19 Pandemic. All groups are to be congratulated for the work that they have put in to ensure that we not only got through the bulk of 2020, but also for the resurgence of Scouting in a face to face environment over the past few months.

Our Member Support team of Carol Cope, and Lyall and Jeanie Wood remain on hand to support our youth and adult members as required and do an excellent job in ensuring that all our members can flourish in a safe environment. Major initiatives in this area over the last 12 months include the Know It. Live it. Log It. education campaign and the continuation of the Youth Safe

Advocates program. GWS currently has 25 advocates across the region.

Diversity and Inclusion with Cassie Rec and Lochie Frasier has been quiet this year but they have done great work in insuring that people of all abilities and from all walks of life are welcome in Scouting. Several groups took advantage of Sensory kits being donated to help support members. The team is looking for new ways to promote Diversity and Inclusion in the new year.

One focus in the Youth Safety space has been working to update our compliance with Working with Children Checks and mandatory e-learning. GWS Region now provides regular reminders to those adult members who need to re-visit these requirements ahead of time, allowing for greater compliance in this area.

As well as these areas, the team has helped out with the Adult Recognition Award ceremony, Scout Summer Fun Days, Monopoly Runs and other events.

I could not do this role without the support of Geoff, Tony and Mel as my fellow Deputies, Debbie as Region Chair as well as the Guidance and Mentorship of David as I have settled into this much larger role. I also really need to thank Wendy in the office for the many random and annoying questions and the rest of the Region team for their support.

*Steve Wallace*

Deputy Region Commissioner (Operations & Youth Safety)



# REGION FINANCIAL REPORT

## The Scout Association of Australia - New South Wales Branch GWS Region Cost of Operation for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	<b><u>Administration</u></b>		
	<b><i>INCOME</i></b>		
	Membership Fees	2,736	0
2,009	Saleable Items Income	1,752	100
	Activity Fees	0	0
-37	Interest - Bank	40	60
500	Fundraising / Donations	-150	4,500
193	Sundry Income	-2,784	-6
67	Interest Received		
9,186	Awards Dinner Fees		
6	Administration Fees		
<b>11,924</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>4,654</b>
	<b><i>EXPENDITURE</i></b>		
59,410	Salaries & Oncosts	2,926	52,621
2,805	Awards, Badges & Scarves	1,288	2,000
11,493	Awards Dinner Expenses	75	4,000
0	Vehicle Registration	0	0
0	Conference Expenses	0	0
0	Insurance	0	0
0	Meeting Expenses -net	0	0
0	Bank Fees	309	600
512	Postage & courier	243	600
2,153	Printing & Stationery	1,638	1,020
0	Promotions & Publicity	0	0
0	Repairs & Maintenance	0	0
0	Cleaning	0	0
26	Saleable Items Cost	74	0
1,288	Telephone & internet	1,246	780
1,196	Sundry Expense	5,057	4,432
5,481	Membership Fees		
2,462	Computer Expenses		
244	Security of Premises		
<b>87,070</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>12,856</b>	<b>66,053</b>
<b>-75,146</b>	<b>Net Administration Expenses</b>	<b>-11,263</b>	<b>-61,399</b>
	<b><u>Other Region Activities</u></b>		
-4,732	Development & Promotion	1,867	-3,450
9,822	Camp Bundilla	-60,770	-26,722
37,854	Scouting Activities	-28,045	-5,525
245	Leader Training	-211	-125
-5,748	Property	-14,147	-17,964
<b>-37,705</b>	<b>Net Region Cost of Operation</b>	<b>-112,569</b>	<b>-115,184</b>

## SECTION REPORTS

# JOEY SCOUTS

What a unique and wonderful year 2020-2021 was for Joey Scouts in Greater Western Sydney Region.



Joey Scouts and their Leaders had to get their heads around Scouting@Home, offering Joeys Scouts the opportunity of Scouting online. This proved very popular with all Joey Units participating in the Camp@Home ANZAC program. Joeys were encouraged to camp out in their back yards or in their lounge rooms with their families, and to join in the ANZAC dawn service from their driveway.

Joey Scouts began in Australia in 1990, and in 2020, we celebrated 30 Years of Joey Scouts. To mark this special milestone, Joey Scouts had a special badge made that was able to be worn on the uniform for 12 months.



The 30 Year Joey Scout Postcard Exchange saw Joey Units create and swap 30 postcards with 30 different Joey Units from across the State. This program aimed to assist Joey Units with promoting their local area, their Unit adventures and making friends with other Joey Scouts.



JOTA-JOTI was held in October, with Joey Scouts taking part in activities across the Region, learning about communications, technology and connecting with other Scouts not only from NSW but from across Australia and the from around the world.

On the 5 March 2021, 30 Joey and Cub Scout Leaders from within the Region gathered at Bundilla Scout Camp



## Promise Challenge Award

1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021



### 1st Carlingford

Pradhyot NARASIMHA  
Joseph CHAN  
Riki ZHANG  
Eric KERLE  
Alexander VALDEZ  
Jerry YE

### 1st North Rocks

Jacob PUN  
Eva WANG  
Zishu TANG  
Jayden LIU  
Bran TAN  
Kaitlyn YU

### 1st Kellyville

Aaliyah PHILLIPS

### 1st Oakville

Joel PAUSEY  
Thomas WILKINSON  
Angus HOULISTON

### 2nd Castle Hill

Mitchell GARDNER

for the GWS Region Konara/Palane. The theme for the event was 'Mad Hatters Tea Party' with all participants asked to wear a 'mad' hat. Everyone had a fantastic night with a great deal of fun and adventure had by all. After all the fun and games, the night finished off with the 'Mad Hatters Tea Party', which was a great opportunity for Leaders to catch up and network. 'Hats off' to the wonderful Region/District Joey & Cub team that helped organised and run the event, especially Carol Cope and Jeff Hook.

Although 2020-2021 was a very challenging year in many ways, it is very pleasing to see that the total number of Joey Scouts in the Region has increased from 298 to 321. The number of Peak Awards for the 2020-2021 year was 17, which was slightly lower than the previous year of 21.

A big thank-you to the GWS Joey Scout Region Team: Krysta Jarvis (Hawkesbury), Jodie Shaw (Penrith/Blue Mountains), Leonie Plummer (Parramatta) and Valerie Lockman and Michelle McLean (Blacktown/Holroyd).

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

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for supporting me over the past 18 months whilst I was the GWS Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts). I would like to congratulate my successor, Kelly Wallace on her appointment and wish her well.

Yours in Scouting

Gabie Thompson (Darzee)  
Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)



# CUB SCOUTS

What a challenging and unique year 2020-2021 was for Cub Scouts in Greater Western Sydney Region.

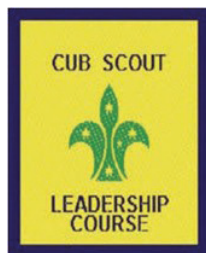
With restrictions in place, Cub Scouts and Leaders very quickly embraced Scouting@Home, giving Cub Scouts the opportunity of continuing their Scouting journey online.



Cub Scout Units across the Region participated in the Camp@Home ANZAC program. Cubs were encouraged to camp out in their back yards or in their lounge rooms with their families, and to join in the ANZAC dawn service from their driveway.

During the 2020-2021, the Region held 4 Cub Scout Leadership Courses.

On 27 & 28 June, we held our first online Cub Scout Leadership Course. The course was a collaboration from GWS and Sydney North Regions, with 6 Leaders and 14 Cubs in total. Cubs were assigned pre-course work as well as a number of tasks in between the sessions. Cubs then sent in photos of the activities they had done. Many Cubs chose to cook meals, wash the clothes, clean their room – make the bed and vacuum the floor as well as wash the dishes and wash the car. The feedback was fantastic with the course being a success.



On 22 August, we held our next face-to-face course with 18 Cubs and 5 Leaders. A little smaller than we are used to, ensuring the course was covid-safe. As restrictions eased later in the year, we held the next CSLC in November, this time we had 30 Cubs participate with

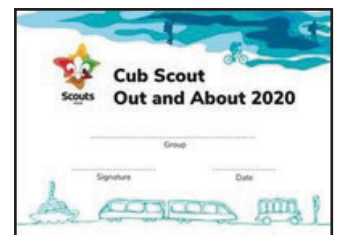
the support of 8 Leaders. It was a very hot and tiring day, but the youth members all enjoyed their day.

On Saturday 27th February, 27 Cubs participated in the next CSLC held at Bundilla which was supported by 6 Leaders. Thank you so much to the Region/District Cub team that took on the running of the event in my absence, particularly Emma Watson. A great day was had by all.



In August, the Region held the first of its online Region Cub Youth Council, with a second follow-up meeting held in September. We had 13 Cub Scouts and 6 Leaders from right across the Region join the Teams meetings. Our Region was tasked with a very important job from the State Commissioner, to review the current Commissioner's Challenge and to redesign it so that it can be relaunched to all Cub Scout Units across NSW. The Cubs were very excited and enthusiastic. All the work completed was compiled into a proposal which was sent to the State Commissioner to share with the Cub Commissioners from each Region and was adopted as the Cub Scout Challenge for 2021. The Cubs that participated were so very proud of what they had achieved.

Traditionally, Cub Scouts have annually participated in an 'Out and About' activity during fourth term. Cub Units are to go on an outing within their local community, in their uniforms, using public transport. GWS Region had planned on having a 'Big Cub Day Out' in October, however due to Covid restrictions effecting participant numbers, the Region Seeonee team worked on how such an activity could be arranged. The answer was the Big Cub Day Out – 'Parramatta Ramble'. Cub Units could have a great day out exploring Parramatta and the local history, whilst answering questions about the local history along the way.



On the 5 March 2021, 30 Joey and Cub Scout Leaders from within the Region gathered at Bundilla Scout Camp for the GWS Region Konara/Palanee. The theme for the event was 'Mad Hatters Tea Party' with all participants asked to wear a 'mad' hat. Everyone had



a fantastic night with a great deal of fun and adventure had by all. After all the fun and games, the night finished off with the 'Mad Hatters Tea Party', which was a great opportunity for Leaders to catch up and network.

'Hats off' to the wonderful Region/District Joey & Cub team that helped organised and run the event, especially Carol Cope and Jeff Hook.

Although 2020-2021 was a very challenging year in many ways, it is very pleasing to see that the total number of Cub Scouts in the Region has only decreased slightly from 727 to 698. The number of Peak Awards for the 2020-2021 year was 49, which was an increase on the previous year of 36.



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: Jeff Hook, Michelle Mclean, Emma Watson, Belinda Garden, Caroline Watts and Carol Cope who have not only supported me throughout 2020-2021, they have also worked hard to support the Groups, Districts and Region activities and events throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for supporting me over the past 3 ½ years whilst I was the GWS Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts). I would like to congratulate my successor, Emma Watson on her appointment and wish her all the best.

*Gabie Thompson (Darzee)*  
Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts)



Cub Scouts Cameron, Jareth and Hugh from 2nd Castle Hill being awarded their Grey Wolf Award certificates.



## Grey Wolf Awards

1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

### 1st Blackheath

Hudson BRADSHAW  
1st Blaxland  
Aidan O'BRIEN  
Hannah SUTHERS  
Flynn ENGELHARD  
Lachlan WYND  
Emily OAKEY  
Bonnie NORTON  
Amelia JONES

### 1st Carlingford

Clara MATTHEWS

### 1st Dural

James WATERSON

### 1st Glossodia

Hayley TONITTO  
Brandon ELLIOTT

### 1st Hawkesbury

Rhiannon WATTS  
Mitchell NASH  
Isaac KREBS  
Ryan LEEDHAM  
Elijah HAYES-PINTAUDI

### 1st Murray Farm

Jamie LILES

### 1st North Rocks

Anrui ZHU  
Morgan RZASA

### 1st Oakville

Cooper BUDIN  
Lucas SOPER  
Jack ALLEN  
Lachlan PARR  
James LAPPALAINEN  
Ryan PAUSEY  
Catherine MILLER  
Charlotte MILLER  
Lucas ASHTON

### 1st South Penrith

Sabrina KAYANI  
Isabella BEHARRELL  
James BAKER  
Grace DUNLOP  
Ty HASKINS

### 1st Toongabbie

Amelia MANLEY

### 1st Westmead

Vishishth KUCHHAL

### 1st Winston Hills

Isla SELWOOD  
Emma SELWOOD  
Grace KOKAY

### 2nd Baulkham Hills

Christian SHAHHO

### 2nd Castle Hill

Raymond LI  
Cameron GARDNER  
Hugh WILSON  
Jareth LIM  
Jason ZHU  
Jackson MARSDEN

### 2nd Northmead

Violet MCGUIRE  
JeongSoo BAKER  
Abigail ABOUCHROUCHE

# SCOUTS

Well I'm not really sure where to start or what to say. On one hand 2020 is a year that needs to be forgotten but on the other hand it is a year that showed us how to be resilient and how adaptable we are.

Scouts for some groups ceased due to a number of reasons – lack of inspiration, lack of skills with online learning, online overload for scouts and many other reasons, but for some units, they seemed to be able to flourish. They used their imaginations and managed to run online nights, virtual scavenger hunts and campfires, cooking nights, safety, first aid nights and so much more. Patrol activities, camps and hikes were held while not being together. Australia Scout Medallions were achieved.

That the following scouts have persevered and achieved their ASM in such extraordinary times absolutely astounds me. Congratulations and BRAVO-O-O to all of them and their leaders.

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. B-R-A-V-O!!

I look forward to the next year being more hands on and being able to 'do' more. Starting with our Region Basic Scout Leadership Course and our Jamborette.

Yours in Scouting

*Tracey (Wiangi) Stopps*  
Region Commissioner (Scouts)



Liam Dorne	1st Oakville
Thomas Dorne	1st Oakville
Evie Dean	2nd Northmead
Martin Hendricks	2nd Baulkham Hills
Madison-Lee Staples	1st Toongabbie
Jillian Harmeling	2nd Castle Hill
Thomas Hinchcliff	2nd Northmead
Olympia Holman	1st North Rocks

# VENTURER SCOUTS

In so many ways, 2020 is going to be a year we'd all like to forget and 2021 hasn't got off to a great start. All major activities cancelled or scaled down; the bulk of the year conducted under severe restrictions; and the major focus has, by necessity, been very much on local level scouting.

In spite of that, we've found new ways of working. The use of online meetings has gone remarkably smoothly with Zoom and Microsoft Teams becoming part of the normal way of doing scouting.

Although Dragon Skin and Roventure didn't proceed, we did manage to have a one-day Waratah conducted at a number of locations based around Penrith, Nurranginy and Parramatta. This was a great success and good to see 1st Blaxland coming out on top for the third time running.

We also held the full suite of courses during the year - Unit Management (in March 2021), Environment, Initiative and Leadership all proceeded with some adaptations. These were well attended, indicating a strong commitment by our youth to a full program. Our Leadership Course was converted into a series of online modules and a single day. It was a great success and will serve as a model for future courses. Adapting the course was a great effort by my team of District and Region Leaders.

I have also assisted our newly appointed Deputy Region Commissioner Tony Dent on a number of Venturer Leader training courses at Bundilla.

Queen's Scout Awards slowed down last year, but I am pleased to see a raft of awards presented after year end, so I will report on them next year.



I am also pleased to see the new program gaining momentum quickly in the region. We are finding the use of clearer guidelines and "I Statements" have assisted in tailoring our activities so we can support youth and the line leaders as the program rolls out. I've also been lucky enough to attend several Queen's Scout Award reflections, which are demonstrating how effectively the program is being adopted.

I would like to thank my team - Damon Love, Matt Vella, Andrew Cross, Chris Lummis and Erica Dilworth for their help and support during the year. I also acknowledge the efforts of the Venturer Leaders and Assistant Leaders in each Unit, without whom the whole program and scouting itself would not be able to function.

I sense 2021 is going to be almost starting from scratch. Our numbers remain strong, with only a small drop off in numbers. That alone gives me great comfort and cause for hope.

*Brian Nelson*

Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts)



# ROVERS

Rovers in GWS have powered through another year, filled with innovation, creativity, and perseverance! From the 2020/21 Executive being elected in Zoom for our ARP, to the variety of activities that truly pushed us as Rovers beyond the horizon of what was considered feasible, this has truly been a year of many firsts. A true testament to the commitment and passion many Rovers within the Region have for their Units and Scouting overall. This dedication to Roving allowed many of GWS Rover Units to maintain engagement and participation with their Rovers, supporting each other through no matter the circumstances.

Many Rovers within Greater Western Sydney have achieved great things throughout the past year. Congratulations to both Amber Bolton and Jessica White for achieving their Baden Powell Awards, it is great to see the excellent work they have done to reach their peak awards. Similarly, both Angus Boxall and Kuzma were presented Rover Recognition Awards, acknowledging their dedication to the Rover section. The achievements of these individuals are reflective of the overall positive attitude and commitment towards Roving within GWS.

Despite numerous cancellations, the GWS Rovers calendar both at a Unit and Region level was still jam-packed! There have been numerous opportunities to have fun and give service to the community and other sections of Scouting. It was great to see Rovers getting involved with great programs at a Unit level and events such as V-Moot and the Region social nights! Outdoor activities reigned supreme in the latter portion of the year, with many of the Units going out on camps and bush walks as well as rock and water activities, truly embracing the expansive distance of nature and exploring their local area. Kings Langley's Cartoon Mootwerk was understandably postponed, however, planning is well underway for them to deliver an outstanding GWS Moot in August 2021!

Despite the program's transition away from the old Rover motto of Service, the section continues to contribute to both the community and younger sections. It was great to see a significant attendance of Rovers at Waratah 2020, with many volunteering to run bases across Western Sydney for the Venturers to enjoy in a safe manner.

August saw Rovers in GWS participate in one of the first face to face BPS and APS training courses in NSW. Seeing Rovers from different Units and Regions come together to learn about Roving and being better leaders was great to see. The quality of discussion and enthusiasm of participation seemed to be valued by all involved.

Finally, A big thank you is in order for the outgoing Region Rover Council Executive. Their willingness to step up into these positions, with no knowledge of what was ahead, has been much appreciated across the region. Similarly, Dave Bannon has been an unfaltering assistant to the entire RRC, and he deserves much appreciation for his continued commitment to helping and improving Rovers and Roving across the region.

I wish the best of luck to the incoming Executive and I have no doubt that they will do a great job in their new roles.

*Damon Love*

Region Rover Council Chair 2020-21



# 2020 ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS



## SILVER KANGAROO – for Eminent Achievement and Exceptional Service

CLAPHAM, John ----- Scout Leader, 1st Springwood Scout Troop



## SILVER EMU – for Sustained and Exceptional Service

FUTCHER-HALL, Aafke----- District Leader(Training), Blue Mountains District  
 GARRETT, Robin ----- Honorary Commissioner(Region), Greater Western Sydney Region  
 LEAHY, John----- Regional Leader(Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region  
 MCEWAN, Lindsay ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Scout Troop



## SILVER KOALA – for Distinguished Service

STOPPS JP, David ----- Region Commissioner, Greater Western Sydney Region  
 THOMPSON, Matt ----- Region Commissioner (Communications & PR), Greater Western Sydney Region  
 TWIST, David ----- Honorary Commissioner (Region), Greater Western Sydney Region  
 WALLACE, Steve----- District Commissioner, Penrith City District



## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – for Distinguished Service

DOUGLASS OAM, Annette----- Honorary Leader (Group), 1st Parramatta Scout Group  
 FREEMAN, Greg ----- Fellowship Member, Hawkesbury Black Horse Scout Fellowship  
 THOMPSON, Paul----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group



## SILVER WATTLE – for Outstanding Service

EDWARDS, Simon----- Rover Adviser (Responsible), 1st Dural Rover Crew  
 FISHER, Joshua ----- Group Leader, 2nd Kings Langley Scout Group  
 FITZSIMMONS, Guy----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Cub Pack ‘Kookaburra’  
 LUTZ, Ian ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Riverstone Cub Pack  
 MCLEAN, Julie ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Westmead Venturer Unit  
 ROGERS JP, Anne----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Grose Vale Cub Pack  
 THOMPSON, Gabie----- Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts), Greater Western Sydney Region



## OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD – for Outstanding Service

BENNETT, Terry----- Fellowship Member, Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship  
 GILLARD, Glennys----- Fellowship Member, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship  
 LOWE, Carol ----- Group Secretary, 1st Dundas Scout Group  
 MCMASTER, Robert----- Fellowship Deputy Chairman, Hawkesbury Black Horse Scout Fellowship  
 WARDLE, Jenny----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group  
 WELTON, Denis----- Honorary Leader (District), Parramatta District



## MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD – for Excellent Service

ABNETT, Charlotte ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Kings Langley Cub Pack ‘Waminda’  
 ANDREWS, Mark----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Cub Pack ‘Blaxland’  
 BOXALL, Greg ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Joey Mob  
 DE KONING, Henriette----- Group Leader, 1st Glossodia Scout Group  
 EDWARDS, Heather ----- Group Leader, 1st Nurragingy Scout Group  
 FLAVELL, Mark----- Assistant Scout Leader, 2nd Kings Langley Scout Troop  
 FREEMAN, Debbie----- Fellowship Member, Hawkesbury Black Horse Scout Fellowship  
 JEWELL, Brian----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blackheath Cub Pack  
 LANG, David ----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group

LOMAS, Kerri----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Blacktown Cub Pack  
 PARSONS, Jess ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Dural Joey Mob  
 SAUERBIER, Narelle ----- Adult Helper, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group  
 WARDELL, Adam ----- Regional Leader, Greater Western Sydney Region



### **SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD – For Good Service**

BROGDEN, Veronica----- Assistant Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Troop  
 BROWN, Khylie ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 2nd Kings Langley Scout Troop  
 CROSS, Andrew----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith Venturer Unit  
 DAVIS, Donna ----- Supporter, 1st North Rocks Scout Group  
 DENT, Roslyn ----- Group Chairman, 1st Greystanes Scout Group  
 DIMMOCK, Wendy ----- Adult Helper, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group  
 DODDS, Nicole----- Group Treasurer, 1st Kellyville Scout Group  
 FAVOTTO, Lucio ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Scout Troop  
 FISHER, Ellen ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 2nd Kings Langley Venturer Unit  
 FORNARI, Richard----- Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Troop  
 GALE, Louise----- Group Leader, 2nd Northmead Scout Group  
 GARDEN, Belinda ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith Cub Pack ‘Glenmore’  
 GARDEN, Daniel----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith Cub Pack ‘Glenmore’  
 GRAHAM, Jason----- Crew Leader (Not Appointed), Nepean Rover Crew (Group)  
 HABER, Paul ----- Group Chairman, 1st Blackheath Scout Group  
 ISHII, Mika ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Joey Mob  
 JELLEY, Cris----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Cub Pack ‘Impeesa’  
 KELLEHER, Mallory ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Springwood Cub Pack ‘Tibrogargan’  
 KEMBLE, Don ----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group  
 KHOR, Wycee ----- Adult Helper, 1st Carlingford Scout Group  
 LANSLEY, Bennett ----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group  
 LAURENT, Laurel ----- Group Treasurer, 1st Blackheath Scout Group  
 LEARY, Nerilee ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Erskine Park Joey Mob  
 LEE, Mark----- Group Treasurer, 1st Kings Langley Scout Group  
 LEONG, Alex----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Scout Troop ‘Bartoo’  
 LEWIS, Christopher ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Kings Langley Cub Pack ‘Waminda’  
 MOORE, Helen----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Murray Farm Cub Pack ‘Possum’  
 MURDOCH, Kym ----- Supporter, 1st Greystanes Scout Group  
 NEWSOME, Sue ----- Group Treasurer, 1st Nurragingy Scout Group  
 OAKEY, Mathew ----- Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Scout Troop ‘Dunphy’  
 PEBERDY, Dave ----- Scout Leader, 2nd Kings Langley Scout Troop  
 PEBERDY, Maureen----- Group Treasurer, 2nd Kings Langley Scout Group  
 PONNAMPALAM, Gillian----- Group Chairman, 1st Westmead Scout Group  
 ROPER, John----- Group Chairman, 1st Kings Langley Scout Group  
 ROSS, Matthew ----- Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Kings Langley Cub Pack ‘Waminda’  
 ROWE, Naomi----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Westmead Scout Troop  
 SATHARASINGHE, Kay----- Trainee Leader(Scout), 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Troop  
 SCHWALBE, Beth----- Group Treasurer, 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Group  
 SCHWALBE, George ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Cub Pack  
 SIMS, Michael----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Cub Pack ‘Pukeena’  
 SPAGNOLO, Steven ----- Group Chairman, 1st Ermington Scout Group  
 STEPHEN, Andy----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Cub Pack ‘Alleena’  
 SUTHERS, Jade----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Cub Pack ‘Pukeena’  
 TOMKINS, Joanne----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Springwood Joey Mob  
 VANDERJAGT, Elizabeth ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith Venturer Unit  
 WACIEGA, Stan ----- Group Trustee, 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Group  
 WATKINS, Melissa ----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group  
 WEBB, Glenda----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Scout Troop ‘Dunphy’  
 WEBBER, Jude ----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group  
 WILSON, Matthew ----- Group Chairman, 2nd Kings Langley Scout Group  
 WINDERBANKS, Tracey ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Joey Mob ‘Python’  
 WOOLDRIDGE, Michael----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blackheath Cub Pack

## MEMBER SUPPORT

### SCOUTS NSW SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT STATEMENT

“Scouts NSW is committed to safeguarding youth in our care. Scouts NSW is committed to creating an environment where all our members feel safe, supported and protected.”

In keeping with our State commitment our Greater Western Sydney Region Member Support Team have provided assistance to Youths, Leaders and Parents throughout difficult times. This past year has not been easy for all of us, and our Team have continued to offer support across our Region.

Our roles include educating our frontline leaders in how to be more supportive 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 measurers can be found in:

<https://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/about/child-health-safety>

YOUTH SAFE ADVOCATES ARE THE FACE OF SCOUTS NSW'S CHILD SAFETY INITIATIVES.

“At Scouts NSW, we are committed to developing a culture where young people feel safe, supported and empowered to speak up.”

- Neville Tomkins OAM JP, Chief Commissioner of Scouts NSW

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 who 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 on <https://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 [membersupport@greaterwestscouts.com.au](mailto:membersupport@greaterwestscouts.com.au)

Our State Child Protection Hotline can also be contacted in emergencies on 1800 605 004 or [ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com](mailto:ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com)

*Carol Cope*

Region Commissioner (Member Support)  
Youth Safe Advocate

## COMMUNICATIONS & PR

The last year has been a bit quieter, as many major events unfortunately had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. However, my team were still kept busy with:

- 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 & ‘Leaders and Supporters’ facebook group
- creation of a special stay@home ANZAC 2020 video
- design of the Region Annual Report
- design & publication of Region monthly newsletter (The Bulletin)
- photography at various events

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, which keeps our leaders informed of the many things happening in our Region.

A new Region website has started being developed and we hope to launch this in late 2021. My thanks to Suzanne Cornell and David Shaw for their ongoing support and assistance with Region communications.

Thanks to David Stopps, Geoff Henderson, Steve Wallace, Tony Dent and the entire Region team for their support and assistance.

Lastly, thanks to all our amazing leaders for their continued support and dedication to Scouting in our Region.



*Matt Thompson*  
Region Commissioner  
(Communications & PR)

## ACTIVITIES

At the beginning of my last annual report, I made reference to what you would call more “challenging times!” Maybe I should have used different wording. Perhaps a “trailer” to what was to come, may have been more appropriate.

2020-2021 has been a period in time that none of us will quickly forget. Like so many times in life, when dramatic things happen, life as we know it, does change; we do, and even say things differently. What we may have considered a bit strange say 18 months ago, is now considered the norm. Scouts has certainly not been immune from these changes.

On the Activities front, we have arguably been one of the worst affected areas across scouting, not just within our Region, but as a total organization.

As I have mentioned on previous occasions, you simply cannot paddle a canoe, or abseil down a cliff, “Online”.

At this point in my report, I would normally elaborate on some of the great activities we have run over the last 12 months. Activities that have not just youth involved, but leaders as well. Being pushed just that little bit beyond their normal comfort zone. While there has been a few “workshops” here and there, it has certainly been a much quieter time for my team, with adventurous activities.

Of course, that has not changed the fact that I have still a very dedicated team of highly skilled and passionate leaders, all ready, to go! As I said at Christmas time, they

are all like Fire Fighters in a Fire Station. High skilled people waiting to respond, as soon as the opportunity arises.

My thanks to everyone on my team is no less this year, than any other year previously.

One area that was greatly affected by COVID-19 was caving, with virtually all cave systems in NSW being closed. It was with great sadness that I accepted the resignation of Meredith Stewart, as our Caving Coordinator. Meredith did so much for opening up caving within our Region, and was instrumental in establishing our annual “Caving Pilgrimage” to Wee Jasper. Always a great time, and often with 60+ participants in attendance.

Likewise, Ross Smith stepped down from the Activities Team, in his role as Canyoning Coordinator. Canyoning is one of those very much high adventurous type activities, and we were certainly privileged to have a person with Ross’s knowledge and skills, on the team.

Earlier in the year saw Tallia Joel hang up her harness and helmet from Scouting. Tallia was passionate, particularly in Abseiling and Caving, and was a huge support to the team on so many Rock Workshops and Courses.

One thing I am very conscious of, is that we cannot keep doing the same thing for ever. Since taking on the RC Activity Role back in 2011, my original Team has let me say “**matured!**” While I know they now say 60 is the new 30 it does not alter the fact we are all getting older. *Part of my charter now is to bring in new blood onto the team, to mentor the “next generation” of Activity Leaders; leaders with “youth on their side”*

I would like to acknowledge the continued work of our Region Commissioner David Stopps, and indeed the whole Region Council for their continual support, and of course, it would be wrong of me not to mention the wonderful support of Wendy Dimmock, in the Region Office. *Especially on those cancelled events, requiring refunds to be issued.*

While this year has been very tough, let us not see it as a waste. But rather, a year where we have all been honed in sharpness and strength. Let us all go out now with a renewed sense of vigour! ...it can only get better from here!

*Mark Fell (Dingo)*  
Region Commissioner (Activities)  
Assistant Technical Director (Cumberland Gang Show)

# CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW



2020 was a year in which resilience was practised by the Management Board, the Production Team, the cast and crew. The decision was made in March to postpone the show due to the commencement of Covid restrictions.

The Production Team and Management Board immediately set to work to organise a new show, announced in June called “The Gang’s All Here – Limited Edition” which had been designed from the ground up as a new 60 minute one act programme to be performed on Sunday 8th November at the Southern Cross Vocational College Burwood O’Grady Auditorium. The whole Gang was enthusiastically behind this venture. The plan was to commence in October with three weeks of rehearsals.

The production and Management Teams worked tirelessly on the plans for delivering the new programme while also monitoring the government’s rules and guidelines. Unfortunately, the rules changed substantially when the situation in Victoria worsened resulting in the cancellation of this new programme in August.

It was the first time in 50 years that Cumberland Gang Show did not perform.

In preparation for our 2021 production of our original show “Rise Up” we offered direct entry to all the cast from 2020. New members were auditioned virtually.

2021 has proven to be a difficult year for rehearsals. Over 40 schools and community halls were approached but many were not accepting bookings while the others were already booked out. We commenced our first three weeks of rehearsals at Bundilla only to be washed out on the third day. We subsequently gained access to the Southern Cross Vocational College at Burwood and have been rehearsing there since.

We are constantly responding to the changing situation and are now at version 8 of our Covid Safe plan and at version 7 of our rehearsal schedule.

We will be performing “Rise Up” at Riverside Theatre from 1 July to 10 July subject to the theatre’s Covid Safety as well as our own Covid Safety Plan.

We have revised the original programme to fit a 90 minute one act performance. Currently 100% seating is available at all 8 sessions including 4 matinees.

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

19 members of the crew were recognised in the 2020 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

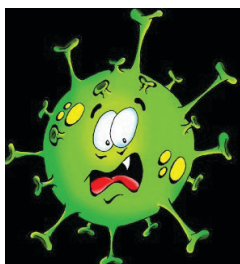


Cumberland Gang Show 2020 Virtual Choir performance of ‘Together We Can Change The World’

# RADIO, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The first half of 2020 was quiet for the science activity due to Groups not meeting because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Around July they started to cautiously open up, and we eventually saw Murray Farm Joeys and Cubs for their 'Bug Off' night, as did Hawkesbury, 1st Kings Langley and 1st Erskine Park Cubs.

The **Bug OFF** program has really taken off this year as Leaders realise the importance of hand washing awareness for their youth. The scouts are fascinated by the phosphorescent glow of 'germs' that are not washed off successfully.



We also visited 2nd Baulkham Hills Venturers in August for a **Pyro Rocket** night with a variable success rate of launches, and our only near miss with the virus.

The **GWS Jamborette**, usually in June, was cancelled this year.

**JOTA/JOTI** in October was also muted this year, but 2nd Kings Langley with their new Scout Leader 'Rosella' and other district Leaders support, put on a good Radio day for the Scouts and Cubs that attended.

The Radios were operated by Robin Garrett 'Batman' on the HF 40meter and 80meter bands, and Scout **Zaran Mortimer**, who obtained his Foundation License VK2FZAR, in September last year. Zaran responded to a JOTA CQ from cubs in Panania on the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club 2meter repeater, and Batman made contact with scouts from 1st Greystanes who had hiked up Mt Banks carrying their radio, battery and antenna.



Andy Jenkinson provided a base to assist the Scouts 'make a D Cell' when they weren't talking on the radios.

A really unique activity for me involved a deaf parent (Nicolas) and a skilled Sign Scout (also called Nicolas). The two Nicolas's lead the scouts in an interesting game to learn Auslan - an Australian version of sign language. A rare occasion to keep your eyes open to "hear" what is being said. An innovative 'code' base for JOTA.

I've taken advantage of the spare time to rediscover Slime – **Clear slime** in particular. I didn't know that any clear or transparent coloured 'school glue' could be made into slime with Borax. What amazing stuff. With the optimum amount of 'linker' it doesn't stick to your hands or stain things (like the ceiling, Andy!).

After making lots of small test batches I offered to show **GWS Joey and Cub Leaders** how to make clear slime at their training meeting at Bundilla in March'21. When making slime in bulk it became obvious that I was 'out of my depth', in fact up to my knees in slime. While a sticky mess on the night, it hardened to a firm slime the next day.

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

What an interesting year we have all had personally, professional and in scouts.

There were many challenges and obstacles that had to be met and many of our groups met them and exceeded them as well.

I am only new to the role of District Commissioner, but I had the pleasure of attending most of the ARP's and it was definitely an eye opener. The amount of work the groups did to keep their members engaged and, in most cases even growing was astounding; care packages so that the members could participate in zoom sessions, let's cook together nights, in house scavenger hunts and loads more.

Many groups in this district grew in number and are continuing to grow and some groups even invested from 3 to 5 new leaders this year alone.

What a way to go Blacktown. The children have all been keen to get back to scouting and getting out there and having fun.

I believe that this year will be a great growth year for Blacktown and Scouts in general as more kids are seen out and about doing fun stuff.

I have been impressed with the ARPs I have attended and the level of commitment from all leaders.

Presentations were lovely, slide shows, graphs, kids presenting, awards being given and people being invested. I enjoyed myself immensely.

There have been members that even managed to achieve high awards despite the challenge of last year. Congratulations to Maddison (1st Toongabbie) for achieving her ASM and to Lea (1st Kings Langley) for achieving her QSA. We all know how hard these awards are to achieve and the work involved in attaining them; so it was amazing to see members achieve them with the added difficulties that were thrown at them; it is a testament to them and their group.

I expect 2021 to be a great year for scouting and Blacktown.

*Elena Lombardi*  
District Commissioner

# BLUE MOUNTAINS

The past twelve months has been a period of growth for the groups within the Blue Mountains. 1st Blaxland has continued to go from strength to strength and is simply killing it in all sections. We have seen the group have camps, many hikes, canoeing activities as well as regular meeting nights, sometimes across multiple locations.

1st Springwood continues to work on rebuilding itself and it is great to see a number of new leaders coming forward as both leaders and supporters to keep growing the group. It was great to see John Clapham acknowledged for many, many, many years of service with a Silver Kangaroo.

1st Hazelbrook has embraced the new award scheme and the Scouts have been out and about. Joeys and Cubs are running strong programs and are growing. There is always a place for new leaders.

1st Blackheath are running an exceptional program in an area that is remote for Scouting and in a small village that has seen a number of challenges over the last year. The group has now reopened its Venturer Unit and continues to build the other sections up.

District-wise the district has run Leadership Courses, Hikes, Camps, Competition Camp, Excursions and much more. The district continues to be supported by several leaders across the age sections. Late last year, Steve changed roles and left the District Commissioner role. Jodie and Bryn have now taken on this role and have hit the ground running.

All up it has been a solid year for the district, which we will build on in 2021.

*Steve Wallace & Jodie Astley*  
District Commissioner

# HILLS

Membership within the Hills District continues to grow. The past year has been challenging for all. We have seen many elements attempt to constrain the delivery of Scouting. Despite bushfires, floods and COVID-19, just to name a few, the Hills District has met each of the hurdles and designed new ways to overcome them. I am extremely proud of the Hills Leaders for adapting and showing true perseverance to deliver a meaningful program, whether face to face or digitally.

Despite membership dropping off significantly during covid, the District has still achieved a 7% increase in membership on the previous year. There was a 4% increase in youth which is a great result considering the circumstances. Positively we saw a 24% increase in Leaders, which is fantastic news, however, still not enough with every Group now having waiting lists, specifically for Joeys and Cubs.

Looking back over the past 5 years, the Hills District has achieved a solid 26% increase in youth membership and 23% increase in Leaders. More assistance is required to recruit more Leaders to unleash the awaiting youth into Scouting.

We have celebrated a new Group commencing, 1st Rahilah Muslim Group, consisting of Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Rovers & Leaders. We welcome the Group to the District and look forward to its success. This is the 3rd new Group commenced within the District in the last 3 years, as well as a new Scout Troop (2nd Troop in Group), Venturer Unit & Rover Crew within existing Groups. Certainly something to positively recognise.

This past year saw many talented Leaders create online and 'in your home' programs. It has been exciting to see how many different ways the adaptable Scouting movement program can be delivered. Despite these constraints badgework continued to flourish. Since the easing of face to face restrictions, the 'out' in Scouting has been unleashed and the non-virtual world has been explored again.

It has been heart warming to observe the active engagement with the Community and growing parent support. It is important to note the key supporters of Scouting that have provided financial and in kind assistance during these difficult times as well. Their assistance has been critical to the success of the program delivery within each of the Groups.

The majority of the Groups in the District have now

implemented the new youth program. It has been challenging and frustrating at times, but the youth are thriving and benefitting from the youth led adult supported process. A number of support and mentoring networks were established within the District to overcome the challenges a new program presents and the gaps in the communication process.

A number of Adult Members in the District, were honoured by the Chief Scout of Australia, the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) in the annual Adult Recognition Awards for Good Service, BRAVOOO to all.

We expect this next year to again significantly increase with youth. Which Group will crack the 150 members first? Many resources are required to assist attract more Leaders to ease the current strain and provide further opportunities for youth membership growth. The District has implemented LeaderBuild in numerous Groups, with success, mostly boosting Group Committee numbers and parent involvement, but also sourcing a number of new Leaders.

I would like to personally thank the adult members for their dedicated & selfless service to the youth in the District. I recognise this past year wasn't the easiest and many are taking on more than they should, 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

Congratulations to the members of Holroyd District who received Awards on Founders Day

Congratulations to all have who achieved excellence in their badge work and it would appear that all Groups have taken the opportunity and are now working on the new badge system. Bravo

To the Leaders I thank you for your continued support during the Covid Period and still be able to present "Virtual Scouting" to your members.

We should all be back to face to face meetings in your Groups but still maintaining covid safe practices.

I would also like to thank those parents who also have taken up the challenge to become Leaders or have taken positions on their respective Groups Committees

Ron Brown  
District Commissioner

# PARRAMATTA

Firstly a BRAVOOO to all leaders and youth members in Parramatta District!

The Parramatta District Groups showed how innovative and resilient they could be during the lock down days of 2019 by creating interactive Zoom Meetings and challenges to keep the majority of our youth members engaged and enjoying Scouting. As a result, the District came out of the dark days of the pandemic, looking very much like they did pre-pandemic. I congratulate the leaders for their innovation and positive thoughts to produce a strong outcome for both the children and the leaders when others were struggling.



All groups in the District have embraced the changes to the Youth Program and are working together to support each other to understand the ins and outs of Terrain and encouraging the youth members to take a very active role in programming and planning. To date, all is going well.

I asked some of the Group Leaders to provide me their list of all the positive things that happened during the last 12 months.

## 1st Parramatta

- We managed to keep the Youth members engaged through Teams meeting during the lockdown, running cooking shows, on-line games, and even knot relays.
- We did not lose any Scouts as a result of COVID-19 effects and, as soon as we could meet face-to-face again, numbers actually went up, especially after very successful promotion night.
- Managed to run several (8 I believe) day hikes (see linked photos), involving youth members from a few District Groups (1st Parra, 1st MF, 1st WH, 1st CA/RV, 1st ER).
- Got our Joey Unit back up and running at 1st Parramatta Hall, and a certified JSL.
- Maintained most of our hall hirers (and actually ended up in a better financial position!)

## BLIA Western Sydney Scout Group

- The BLIA Scout Group underwent such growth during 2020 that in January 2021, Scouts NSW assisted to split the Group into Region control.
- BLIA Sydney – Kogarah Scout Group split away from GWS Region and joined South Met as a stand alone Group
- Further splits well take place in 2021 to create another 2 stand alone groups which will be known as BLIA Sydney – Chatswood Scout Group (Sydney North Region) and the original BLIA Western Sydney Scout Group will become BLIA Sydney – Parramatta Scout Group
- There are currently a large group of new youth members preparing for their investitures.

## 1st North Rocks

- Good retention of Leaders and steady Youth Numbers
- Lots of Outdoor and Community Activities
- Peak Awards achieved in Joeys and Cubs

### 1st Carlingford

- Maintained regular youth meetings during Covid lockdowns
- Many youth achieved peak awards ion Joeys and Cub Scouts

*Tracey Hansford*  
District Commissioner



## PENRITH CITY

Penrith City Scouts has continued to thrive over the past 12 months. We have held steady numbers for the year and have had a range of exciting and adventurous activities.

The year started for us with the upskill weekend for the transition to the new program. Most sections have embraced everything the program has to offer, particular the outdoor skills and youth are now leading most activities in most sections.

The Three Groups – 1st Erskine Park, 1st Cambridge Park and 1st South Penrith as well as the Rover Unit – Nepean have been working on a range of activities including, Science Nights, Plenty of outdoor Hiking and Navigation, District Camps, Lightweight cooking, and Canoeing activities on the River. The middle of the year saw several creative activities such as online quizzes, scavenger hunts, follow along cooking demonstrations, pay it forward night and Driveways at Dawn for ANZAC. There may have even been some Venturers playing the last post on whatever instrument they could.

We were unable to run many of our normal District Events, however we still managed to have a District Camp for Scouts, Cub Sports Day, District Lazerzone and teams competing in the COVID-19 edition of Waratah. In February the now infamous Monopoly made a return and saw youth from all age sections competing to win the competition, including a tight showdown between 1st South Penrith Joeys, 1st Cambridge Scouts and Nepean Rover Crew, who ultimately won this years competition.

The district is very lucky to be supported by a great team of leaders, including Jodie S in Joeys, Rock and Bel in Cubs, Fiona in Scouts, Andrew in Venturers, Liz in Training, Mitch as District Adviser and Glenn as District Delegate. In late 2020, Steve (Turtle) left the District Commissioner Role for other roles in Scouting and Jodie A came on board as our new DC with Kelly as assistant. A huge thanks go to this team who keep pushing the boundaries to deliver great scouting for our youth!

Bring on 2021!

*Steve Wallace & Jodie Astley*  
District Commissioner

## SCOUT FELLOWSHIPS

# CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

## SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

There are 16 members of Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship, which is a decrease of 2 members. Naomi Azzopardi resigned to take up an active Guiding leadership position. Bob Matthews was resigned for not meeting the requirements for membership of the Scout association. It is our intention to appoint Bob as an Associate member of our Fellowship. Members need to be aware that they must maintain a current Working with Children Check, (WWCC), and current training in the e-learning modules Work Place Health and Safety and Child Safe. These modules only have a life of three years.

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.

Many of our number were 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. A later attempt at an abridged single day performance in November also was cancelled. The 2021 season is now in rehearsal to be performed as a ninety minute one act show titled Rise Up.

Our social program was very limited with an end of year picnic at Bungarabee Reserve Doonside in November and an outing to Campbelltown in March to watch a performance of Chicago. We also enjoyed many monthly catch ups on Zoom where Jeff and June Harrison were able to join us from Wagga Wagga.

Many of our members are also active in other scouting appointments in Groups and the Region.

Congratulations to our member who was recognised in the 2020 Good Service Awards. Glennys Gillard was awarded the Outstanding Service Award. This was presented at Bundilla in December. Our member Jeff Harrison was awarded an OAM in the Australia Day Honours. Now Jeff matches his wife June as an OAM.

Our webpage continues to be hosted by the Cumberland Gang Show Site and can be found at [www.fellowship.gangshow.asn.au](http://www.fellowship.gangshow.asn.au)

Special thanks to my fellow members of the Executive: Secretary Jeanie Wood and Treasurer Evelyn Wilson. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and have certainly ensured the success of the past twelve months. I look forward to our Fellowship enjoying another exciting year in 2021-2022 as the Coronavirus threat decreases.

*Lyall Wood*  
Chairperson - Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship



# BLUE MOUNTAINS SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

The Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship has had a very restricted year as a result of COVID-19 controls. Many of our planned service activities were cancelled. The Fellowship has endeavoured to meet regularly and continue social activities, albeit using MS Teams where appropriate.

It was with sadness that one of our stalwart members - Richard Mason - passed away in December 2020. Our Fellowship is indebted to Richard for his service and enthusiasm. Many of our members were able to attend Richard's funeral service at Glenbrook to give him a fitting farewell.

We currently have 10 active members, most of whom have had a long association with scouting.

All service activities after March in 2020 were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Our service activities to date in 2021 included;

- Penrith District City Monopoly Run
- Judging at Blue Mountains District Scout Competition Camp at Hartley

Our social activities in 2020/21 included;

- Virtual Trivia Night via MS Teams
- Virtual Christmas in July dinner via Zoom
- Baby photo matching via Zoom
- Name that artist and title via MS Teams
- Christmas dinner at Blaxland Thai

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 the coming year.

*Peter Tamsett*

Chairperson - Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship

# PINNAROO SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

What a different year it has been for our Scout Fellowship with so many things we are usually involved in cancelled or altered due to COVID 19.

We started the year in our usual busy manner with members assisting at Westmead Cubs, Parramatta Scouts and the Buddhist group.

We catered for the first Cub Scout Leadership Course of the year; however, the latter ones were modified being online and the children bringing their own lunch.

During lockdown we continued to meet via Zoom, this gave us the opportunity to catch up with each other.

When the lockdown was eased, we managed to have a picnic together at Mt. Annan Botanical Gardens in August and agreed that picnic was the way to go for our Christmas get together.

In the community we were able to donate 75 filled marble bags, 80 dilly bags to Samaritan's Purse. We also did our annual grocery collection for Ronald McDonald House.

We were unable to sing Christmas carols with the residents of Southern Cross Nursing Home this year, however, we were able to make them gifts and deliver them for the staff to distribute.

Two of our members were recognised in the World Scout Day Awards. Congratulations to Terry Bennett and Denis Welton who both received Outstanding Service Awards.

We look forward to this year with a renewal of things for us to be involved in once again.

*Patricia Shaw*

Chairperson - Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship



## THE SCOUT PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose grace Thy servants  
are enabled to fight the good fight of faith,  
and ever prove victorious,  
we humbly beseech Thee,  
so to inspire us,  
that we may yield our hearts to Thine obedience  
and exercise our wills on Thy behalf.  
Help us to think wisely,  
to speak rightly,  
to resolve bravely,  
to act kindly,  
to live purely.  
Bless us in body and soul  
and make us a blessing to our comrades.  
Whether at home or abroad,  
may we ever seek the extension of Thy Kingdom.  
Let the assurance of Thy presence  
save us from sinning,  
strengthen us in life  
and comfort us in death.  
O Lord our God, accept this prayer  
AMEN

Scouts Australia - NSW

Greater Western Sydney Region

6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills NSW 2153

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

[www.greaterwestscouts.com.au](http://www.greaterwestscouts.com.au)