



Scouts Australia, NSW Greater Western Sydney Region 75th Annual Report April 2021 - March 2022



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 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

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

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 2021-2022

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

Region Commissioners

RC JOEY SCOUTS -----	Kelly Wallace
RC CUB SCOUTS -----	Emma Watson
RC SCOUTS -----	Tracey Stopps
RC VENTURER SCOUTS -----	Brian Nelson
RC ROVERS -----	David Bannon
RC ACTIVITIES -----	Mark Fell
RC MEMBER SUPPORT -----	Carol Cope

District Commissioners

DC BLACKTOWN -----	Elena Lombardi
DC BLUE MOUNTAINS -----	Jodie Astley
DC HAWKESBURY -----	Phil Heinrich
DC HILLS -----	Terry Brooke
DC HOLROYD -----	Ron Brown
DC PARRAMATTA -----	Tracey Hansford
DC PENRITH CITY -----	Jodie Astley

Region Patrons

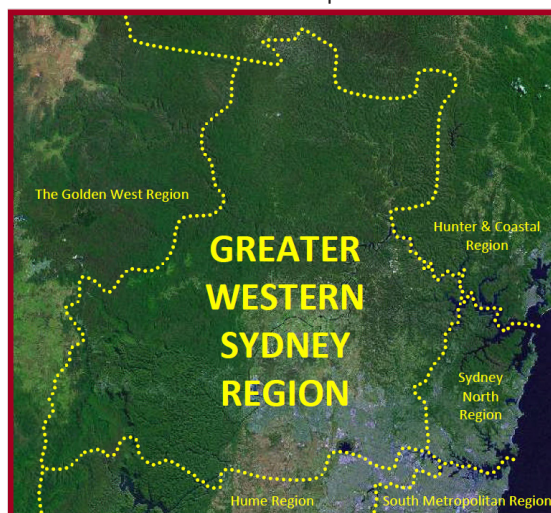
Julie Owens MP
Federal Member for Parramatta

Susan Templeman MP
Federal Member for Macquarie

Ray Williams MP
State Member for Castle Hill

CONTENTS

Minutes from 2021 Annual General Meeting	4
Region Financial Report.....	6
Region Commissioner	7
Region Chairperson	7
Deputy Region Commissioner	
Operations & Youth Safety	8
Training, Diversity & Inclusion	8
Region Support & Development.....	9
Administration & Communications	10
Youth Program Support	10
Youth Sections	
Joey Scouts	11
Cub Scouts	12
Scouts	13
Venturer Scouts	14
Rovers.....	16
2021 Adult Recognition Awards	17
Activities	19
Member Support	20
Cumberland Gang Show	20
Radio, Science & Technology	22
Districts	
Blacktown.....	24
Blue Mountains	24
Hills.....	24
Holroyd.....	25
Parramatta.....	25
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 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Minutes of the 74th Annual Report Presentation of the Region Council held on Sunday 6th June, 2021 commencing at 2.30pm at Bundilla Scout Camp, Peter Waite Room.

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

PRESENT: Region President Ross Grove, Region Commissioner David Stopps JP and others as per attendance book. Deborah and Ross Howlett via Microsoft Teams.

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

APOLOGIES: Mr Edmond Atalla MP, Ms Robyn Preston MP, The Hon Scott Farlow MLC, Councillor Tony Bleasdale OAM, The Hon David Elliott MP, The Hon Stuart Ayres MP, Mr Hugh McDermott MP, Ms Melanie Dimmock, Mr Matthew Thompson, The Hon Geoff Lee MP, Councillor Bob Dwyer and Mr Matthew Phillips.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 73rd Annual General Meeting of the Region Council held on Sunday, 14th June, 2020 were circulated in the Annual Report and adopted.

MOVED: Stephen Wallace SECONDED: Damon Love

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

Mrs Kelly Wallace, Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)

3. A FEW WORDS FROM OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

MRS SUE BARTLETT, member of the Board of Directors thanked the Region for the invite. She spoke about the true spirit of Scouting as demonstrated by resilience, thinking outside the square and coming together.

MR RAY WILLIAMS MP, State Member for Castle Hill and Parliamentary Secretary for Western Sydney congratulated everyone for keeping healthy and rising to the challenge of the last two years. He spoke about the importance of Scouting, particularly outdoor activities and encouraged all members to take benefit of the Community Building Partnership Fund.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

REGION PRESIDENT

Mr Ross Grove

TRUSTEES (3)

The Region Commissioner

REGION CHAIR

Mrs Debbie Howlett

Mr Peter Stieme

REGION TREASURER

Mr Ross Howlett

Mr Craig Kennedy

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr Craig KennedyDelegate – Blacktown District
 Mr Paul RoachDelegate – Blue Mountains District
 Vacant.....Delegate – Hawkesbury District
 Vacant.....Delegate – Hills District
 Vacant.....Delegate – Holroyd District
 Mr Michael Majoors.....Delegate – Parramatta District
 Mr Glen DuncanDelegate – Penrith City District

Mrs Lesley TamsettDelegate – Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship
 Mr Lyall Wood AM RFD.....Delegate – Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship
 Vacant.....Delegate – Hawkesbury Black Horse Scout Fellowship
 Mr Peter StiemeDelegate – Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship
 Vacant.....Delegate – Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship

Mr Stephen WallaceDeputy Region Commissioner – Operations & Youth Safety
 Mrs Elena Lombardi.....Region Leader – Workplace Health & Safety
 Mrs Jodie AstleyRegion Leader – Properties
 Mr Cameron LettaChair – Region Rover Council
 Mrs Patricia ShawExecutive Committee Member
 Vacant.....Minute Taker

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF REGION EXECUTIVE

The Region Executive Committee plus the Lord Mayor of the City of Parramatta and the Mayors of the Cities of Penrith, Blue Mountains, Cumberland, Blacktown and Hawkesbury and the Mayor of the Hills Shire.

DELEGATES TO THE NSW BRANCH COUNCIL

THE REGION COMMISSIONER
 MR PETER STIEME

THE REGION PRESIDENT
 MR CRAIG KENNEDY

THE REGION CHAIRPERSON

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: Peter Stieme **SECONDED:** David Bannon

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A special presentation was made to Mr Ray Williams MP, acknowledging his support of Scouts NSW and Greater Western Sydney Region. Mr Williams was awarded with both his 15 Years Service Award as a supporter and a NSW Chief Commissioners Certificate of Appreciation.

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

Mr Tomkins spoke about the Continuing Challenges related to natural disasters and COVID-19. He acknowledged the creativity, dedication & commitment of all leaders. Mr Tomkins also spoke about the long road ahead to recover financially, and that Scouts NSW has a need to be as competitive as possible. Steps are being taken in this area.

8. Mr Ross Grove thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting closed at 3.31pm on 6th June 2021.

REGION FINANCIAL REPORT

The Scout Association of Australia - New South Wales Branch GWS Region Cost of Operation for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	<u>Administration</u>		
	<i>INCOME</i>		
2,736	Membership Fees	0	0
1,752	Saleable Items Income	1,485	1,040
0	Activity Fees	0	0
40	Interest - Bank	0	60
-150	Fundraising / Donations	0	500
-2,784	Sundry Income	-180	9,344
1,593	Total Income	1,305	10,944
	<i>EXPENDITURE</i>		
2,926	Salaries & Oncosts	67,179	66,714
1,288	Awards,Badges & Scarves	458	2,000
75	Awards Dinner Expenses	213	11,000
0	Vehicle Registration	0	150
0	Conference Expenses	0	0
0	Insurance	0	0
0	Meeting Expenses -net	0	500
309	Bank Fees	464	600
243	Postage & courier	379	1,000
1,638	Printing & Stationery	400	1,800
0	Promotions & Publicity	0	0
0	Repairs & Maintenance	0	0
0	Cleaning	0	0
74	Saleable Items Cost	-18	200
1,246	Telephone & internet	1,267	780
5,057	Sundry Expense	-3,393	4,744
12,856	Total Expenditure	66,948	89,488
-11,263	Net Administration Expenses	-65,643	-78,544
	<u>Other Region Activities</u>		
1,867	Development & Promotion	-4,571	-5,800
-60,770	Camp Bundilla	-52,499	14,485
-28,045	Scouting Activities	34,296	14,553
-211	Leader Training	-136	0
-14,147	Property	-11,289	-8,930
-112,569	Net Region Cost of Operation	-99,842	-64,236

REGION COMMISSIONER

Can I please start my report this year by saying thank you to each and every member of Greater Western Sydney Region. Despite another year filled with natural disasters, COVID Lockdowns and all the associated pressures, we still delivered a full Scouting program for our members.

Starting in April we had our Inaugural Summer Fun Days activity that saw both members of Scouting and the Community undertake fun and exciting activities at Bundilla and Lake Parramatta. The team that ran this event did an amazing job showcasing what Scouting has to offer, both in terms of the activities delivered and the soft skills we teach as well.

The majority of our youth sections managed to run amazing activities; including the annual Region Jamborette in June at Cataract Scout Park, the 36 hour hide and seek activity known as Waratah: Operation Dragnet and the 2nd Region Cuborette held at the end of March this year. Our Rover and Joey sections did not run an event in 2021 due to COVID lockdown.

Thank you to Ross Grove, Debbie Howlett and the members of the Region Executive for all of the work you do supporting the region. This year we saw significant investment in our properties with over \$500,000 of grant money being allocated to help maintain the property portfolio. We are expecting that our successes in this area will continue into future years.

My thanks also go to my team of Deputies – Geoff Henderson, Steve Wallace, Mel Dimmock, Tony Dent and Matt Thompson for their continued work in supporting not just me, but all members of the region team in every area possible. We are very lucky to have someone like Wendy Dimmock as our office manager. Wendy works day in and day out to tirelessly ensure that all the phones and emails continue to be answered, the systems work as they should and that the business of the region goes on. Let's not forget our state team. Thank you for your support.

2022 will continue to showcase all that our region has to offer. Once again, we have the Cumberland Gang Show itching to put on a performance in the July Holidays. After 2 years of setbacks, including last year when the lock down was called half-way through bump in, the Gang will be trading the boards once again in a limited season.



Planning is well underway for this year's Jamborette, "The Might of Mythology" and this is looking to be one of our best years yet. Like all our Region events, Jamborette is starting to attract more and more attention from other regions... The Rovers have already started putting together Western Moot, the Joeys and Cubs have had a Palaver/Konara and will be looking to run some great activities in the back end of the year and the Venturers continue to deliver an amazing range of courses and activities including Survival, leadership and Waratah. Top this off by one of the most active and diverse activity teams in the State and we have an amazing year ahead of us.

I would like to close out this report by saying, if the tough times of the last years have shown our teamwork, resilience, and our ability as a team to deliver - imagine what the next few years have in store.

David Stopps JP
Region Commissioner

REGION CHAIRPERSON

GWS, Well Done! As a Region, we have survived another year of challenges that were thrust upon us without warning and how resilient we are is evident by the positives that our members achieved with many Peak Awards being attained throughout 2021; from numerous Joey Scout Promise, Grey Wolf, Australian Scout, Queen's Scouts, Baden Powell Awards and our Adult Recognition Awards. We are so proud of each and every one of them! Again, our leaders have stepped up and undertaken the challenge to deliver and lead great Youth Programs throughout! I am proud to represent our Region as Chairperson and know that we will all endeavour to progress Scouting in NSW to even bigger heights in 2022.

Let's embrace the following quote from Lord Baden Powell for 2022 - "Happiness does not come to those who just sit and wait".

So GWS let's all be proactive in re-engaging our community into the Scouting Way!

Yours in Scouting

Debbie Howlett
Region Chair



DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS & YOUTH SAFETY

If you told me this time last year, that 2021 would have been even more challenging than 2020, I would not have believed it. However hindsight is 20/20 and I need to say that the resilience, pragmatism and sheer tenacity of all members has proven that we have one of the greatest regions in the country and I am proud to be part of this team.



Youth Safety remains a crucial part of all operations within Greater Western Sydney Region. I am proud to state that our region has 25 Youth Safe Advocates who have completed the training with the Office of the Children's Guardian. These individuals are charged with promoting Youth Safe Practices within the region and ensuring that our youth members have someone who is friendly and approachable in the event of a concern. I would like to thank our Region Commissioner (Member Support) Carol Cope and our Region Leaders (Member Support) Jeanie and Lyall Wood for their work in supporting our members. Thanks also go to Our Region Leader (Youth Compliance) Amy Priest who makes sure our adult members continue to meet our Youth Safe Requirements.

One large change in the Operations and Youth Safety Portfolio this year has been the addition of the District Commissioners to the team. District Commissioner is often a challenging role, having to encompass everything from property to training to supporting our program leaders. Jodie Astley (Blue Mountains/Penrith), Elena Lombardi (Blacktown), Terry Brooke (Hills), Tracey Hansford (Parramatta), Ron Brown (Holroyd) and Phil Heinrich (Hawkesbury) continue to provide amazing service to Scouting and we could not operate GWS without their input.

COVID-19 continued to ensure that 2021 was a challenging year for Scouting, particularly for our Workplace Health & Safety and Property team. While Jodie Astley and Elena Lombardi were able to manage the state WHS program effectively, our property assessment program was severely affected. We are reviewing how to restart this program in 2022. A huge thank you must go out to each member of Greater Western Sydney Region for their efforts in managing

COVID-19 within both their local groups, and the wider Scouting environment. It is a true testament for our region that we still managed to deliver a full Scouting Program.

I need to take the time to thank David for his support, leadership and guidance, my fellow Deputies Tony, Mel, Matt and Geoff for working alongside me and Wendy for all the work she does through the office. It has also been a pleasure to work with all members of both the Region Council and Region Executive.

I truly believe that the core job of the Operations & Youth Safety Team is to provide a safe, healthy, and welcoming environment for Scouting to operate and we have pushed this to all groups in the region with the following affirmation. "Scouts NSW is a safe environment where all members are supported and protected. Our members abide by our Code of Conduct and the Scout Promise and Law. Our members Know It. Live It and Log it."

Here is to another great year of Scouting and I look forward to seeing you on the trail.

Steve Wallace

Deputy Region Commissioner (Operations & Youth Safety)

DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER TRAINING, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

2021 has been just as difficult as the previous year with Lockdowns, Isolations and very modified Distance rules changing the way we Train our Leaders.

We had to go from face to face then to Virtual online, and only now are slowly getting back to Face to Face. But through it all the New Leaders still gained the Training and became Leaders within the Region.

We said farewell to Cassie Rec from the Training Team and thank her for all she had done for the Region as a Trainer and as RC Adult Training and Development. We wish her well as Assistant Group Leader at her Group and we will always have time for a catch up.

With the change of Youth Program, the Leader Training is also under changes to match up, so we have two streams of Leader training that are specific to the role a Leader takes on.



Leaders of Youth are the Leaders who are directly working with Youth Members, being the mentors and support for the Youth as they participate in the Program.

Program Support Leaders are the Leaders in the background who are supporting the Leaders of Youth do their role, these Leaders are the Group Leaders, District Leaders and Region Leaders and of course all the Commissioners.

Our focus in Training is to prepare all our Leaders with the tools of supporting our Youth members to be the best they can be, and the realisation they can also get qualifications that can be used for employment.

In the coming year we will be trying to become more flexible in the delivery of training to new leaders, and at the same time encourage our current leaders to develop themselves by completing modules that help them improve their skills and knowledge.

Looking into Scouts Australia Institute of Training, there are a number of Diplomas that can be achieved through Scouting and are an excellent means of improving one's CV when applying for a position.

Yours in Scouting

Tony Dent

Deputy Region Commissioner
(Training, Diversity & Inclusion)



Wood Badge Recipients April 2021 - March 2022

- Rodger Bisby - 1st Oakville
- Naomi Davey - 1st Cambridge
- Nathan Jones - 1st Blaxland
- Dale Kennedy - 1st Kings Langley
- Cameron Letta - 1st South Penrith
- Julie McLean - 1st Westmead
- Alyson Vella - 1st Kings Langley

DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER REGION SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT



2021 was another year of challenge for Scouts in Greater Western Sydney. COVID meant it was very difficult to promote Scouting and develop our membership, however, it doesn't mean that we haven't been looking for development opportunities. We have been

focussing on community partnerships and have started conversations with Parramatta Leagues Club amongst other potential community partners. We hope to extend these partnerships in 2022 to support member development.

As we emerge from COVID we are seeing growth in our membership once again, as parents and carers look for their children to join organisations such as Scouting.

In 2022, we will maintain our focus on our two key areas: 1) Growth in Youth membership; and 2) Growth in Leader membership.



As you can see, our strategy has not changed in GWS. This is important to ensure the best for our members, and that Scouting flourishes for many years to come. Lastly, I would say thanks to the many leaders that take the time so share their thoughts with me on how we can get better as a Region. Often, leaders email me or chat with me about their ideas and I am always happy to take feedback. The more ideas that are shared, the more chance we can solve some of our challenges.

Yours in Scouting

Geoff (Beate) Henderson
Deputy Region
Commissioner (Region
Support & Development)



DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATIONS



Let me start by saying thank you to all our leaders, supporters and families who contribute so much of their spare time to give our youth members many wonderful opportunities and experiences. The past year has made this particularly challenging with the many regulation changes, cancelled events and higher

levels of absenteeism due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your persistence and determination during these times!

While still finding my feet after having been appointed to this new role in August 2021, it has been great working closely with our Region Office Manager, Wendy Dimmock to better understand where we can improve our admin processes and procedures and implement changes where required. I would like to thank Wendy for her tireless dedication to the role and her ongoing support of the Region, and the Region team.

We are starting to use O365 applications to better store Region records and documents in a centralised place which can be accessed by the Region team when required. More work will continue on this in 2023.

Our new Region website went live in August 2021, with a refreshed, modern look. My thanks to Suzanne Cornell and David Shaw for their ongoing support and assistance with Region communications.

In December, Anne Thompson took on the additional responsibility of managing our new membership enquiries process, which involves receiving requests and forwarding onto the relevant Scout groups. This is in addition to the many hours that Anne Thompson already puts into editing our Region Bulletin newsletter each month. Thanks for all you do to keep our leaders and supporters informed about what is happening in our Region.

Lastly, my thanks to David Stopps, Geoff Henderson, Steve Wallace, Tony Dent, Mel Dimmock and the entire Region team for their ongoing support and assistance.

Matt Thompson
Deputy Region Commissioner
(Administration & Communications)

DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER YOUTH PROGRAM SUPPORT



Firstly, I would like to say thank you to the Region for welcoming me into the role. It has been a wonderful opportunity and journey so far.

2021 was another challenging year with Covid restrictions however in true Scouting spirit we didn't let this stop us.

The introduction of the Summer Fun Day was a fabulous addition to the Calendar seeing current members of all sections participate in some of the fabulous activities the Region has to offer as well as welcoming members of the public to try Scouting.

We were lucky enough to squeeze in the Region Jamborette just before lockdown restrictions hit, the event was a great success, and we were very grateful as the event is always a highlight on the calendar.

During lockdown restrictions it was fabulous to see the groups adapt once again to Online Scouting running some fabulous activities & events for the region to participate in.

Another fabulous achievement for the Region was to have GWS take out 1st and 3rd Place in "The Great SCOUTdoors" event run by the State Team, congratulations to the patrol from 1st/2nd Merrylands for the Win and the Wizard Lizards for third place.

I would like to congratulate Kaysanne Lockman, Poppy Brown, TJ Furness & Ashleigh Southam on their nominations for Scout of the Year – what an achievement for GWS to have so many finalists.

In my short time in the role, I have been lucky enough to attend some Peak Award Presentations, It has been wonderful to see so many Youth of GWS achieve their peak awards despite the challenges 2021 threw at them.

Despite the many hurdles we have once again had to face in 2021, it was a great year for GWS. The team has been busy behind the scenes organising some fabulous events for the 2022 calendar, the first one being the recent Cuborette held at Cataract Scout Park – whilst I couldn't attend the event, I've heard nothing but fabulous feedback from those who attended.

Make sure you keep an eye out for more fabulous events the team has in store.

At the beginning of March I was given the news that our wonderful Tracey Stopps would be stepping down from the role as Region Commissioner Scouts to take on the Role of Cuboree Director for the upcoming 2023 Cuboree, I would like to thank Tracey for all her efforts, support and the wonderful things she has achieved in her five years as RC Scouts and I wish her all the best in her new role.

In saying that, I would like to congratulate and welcome Brett Nicholas into the role of Region Commissioner (Scouts) I am looking forward to working with him and seeing all the wonderful things he has in store for the Scouts.

I would like to finish by saying a massive **thank you** to my team

- Kelly Wallace - RC Joeys
- Emma Watson - RC Cubs
- Tracey Stopps/Brett Nicholas - RC Scouts
- Brian Nelson - RC Venturers
- Dave Bannon - RC Rovers & Fellowships

Thank you all for your support and patience as I learn my new role, and thank you for all you do for the Region!

Thank you also to Tony Dent for supporting me in taking on this role as well as Dave, Geoff, Steve, and Matt for all their guidance.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and seeing what amazing things GWS can achieve in 2022.

Yours in Scouting

Melanie Dimmock

Deputy Region Commissioner (Youth Program Support)



SECTION REPORTS

JOEY SCOUTS

This year has been my first year as Region Commissioner Joeys. It has been a challenging year with lots of hurdles and bumps. It has been great to see our team come together and support each other to do our best for our Joey Scouts.

From Scouting at home online to being able to meet safely face to face again, our leaders have gone above and beyond to provide all opportunities possible for our Joeys.

We have had many Joeys achieve their peak awards and I would like to congratulate all of the awardees.

Also, we would like to congratulate Kaysanne Lockman, NSW Joey Scout of the Year!

And for all the Joeys a big thank you for all your hard work throughout this past year

We have seen our Joeys and leaders participate in lots of different activities including; Founder's Day, ANZAC Day Services and Konara/Palane.

Even though we have had to postpone the Joey Water Day and the Joey fun day this year, we are looking forward to having an awesome year coming and these events become bigger and better.

And finally, I would like to thank all Joey leaders for all their hard work and support throughout the year, none of this would be possible without you.

Kelly Wallace

Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)



Joey Scout Challenge Award

1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

1st Carlingford

Alex Chi
Fitzmalik (Ayden) Drummond
Lachlan Bruce
Shengye (Eric) Wang
Sudhiksha (Sudhi) Kotha

1st Hawkesbury

Esme Miller-Holmes

1st Kellyville

Henry Hill

2nd Kings Langley

David Peberdy
Melody Fisher

CUB SCOUTS

The past twelve months in the Cub Scout section has been filled with virtual and face-to-face Scouting, culminating in Cuborette, or “Cuborwet” as it is probably better described! Less of “Welcome to the Jungle” and more of “Squelching through the Mud”! More on that later though.

May 2021 saw us assist with the Joey Scout Fun Day, with Cub Scouts and Cub Scout Leaders involved in the mini golf, vertical and Gang Show bases. We also hosted the Youth Helper Course and one of our Cub Scout Leadership courses. Thank you to our members who contributed to each of these events, and to those who were flexible in managing their attendance and illnesses for the benefit of everyone. The reports from all three of these events were positive, and we looked forward to more of these over the coming months.

Turns out, COVID-19 thought it was time to announce its presence again, with a new strain emerging in late June. From July through until October, we largely experienced Scouting from Home, with most of Australia experiencing some form of heavy restrictions or a lockdown. It is now, more than ever, that the community needed Scouting!

Scouts provides us with a sense of community, a sense of belonging - for some it is their second family. Remaining connected during these isolating times was difficult, at best, but we persisted and many managed to engage with various initiatives that were running locally and globally. The enthusiasm and dedication that our adult leaders provided to ensure Scouting kept going is both much appreciated and deserves to be applauded!

Scouts in Action Month had a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and we were collectively challenged to take action towards at least one, ideally more, of the 17 Goals or 169 targets within them.

During this time, we had other events occurring in the world, with the (postponed) Olympic Games providing inspiration for teamwork, sportsmanship, and camaraderie. Former Scouts Australia member, decathlete Cedric Dubler was a great example of this. If we can all be a little like Cedric, and work together to support each other, then we too can achieve great outcomes.

As we headed through October, some of us joined into sessions with JOTA JOTI (Jamboree of the Air/Jamboree

of the Internet). Others were more focussed on the upcoming summer months, with restrictions slowly easing. We began engaging in more outdoor-centric activities, some as individuals, and others in Patrols. Well done to all members who engaged with The Great SCOUTdoors – some of this was done remotely, while others were fortunate to meet up with their Patrol.

November saw two Cub Scout Leadership Courses run on consecutive days – regrettably the last of the ones we managed to run during this reporting period. Due to restrictions, we had capped the numbers, so these courses were much smaller than our previous ones but very effective still. Well done to those who attended, and thank you to the team who ran these courses for you.



Inclement weather was the theme of the first term of 2022, with more rain than we knew what to do with. We continued to navigate changing COVID-19 protocols, and whilst many Units have now been running at their usual frequency, we should commend the effort and juggling that has been occurring to ensure relevant wet weather and COVID-19 protocols could be navigated to ensure our activities proceeded.

This brings me back to our Region Cub Scout Camp. Congratulations to all Joey Scouts and Cub Scouts who attended, whether that was for one night or two. You braved the mud, the rain, and completely sodden conditions in the spirit of having fun and an adventure, even though it was quite challenging. The smiles on your faces told us all that we needed to know - Scouting was back in action and being outdoors is where we belong!

To the adults who accompanied the Cub Scouts, whether that was transporting, cooking or navigating the mud and activities, thank you from all the Cub Scouts in our Region who appreciate everything that you do to support them to have these exciting opportunities.

To the Scouts, Venturer Scouts, Rover Scouts and adults who assisted with the running of the event, whether that was through activities, first aid, wellbeing, catering or one of the many other tasks that happened to keep us running.

And finally, a massive thank you to the team who pulled this event off! To Jeff, Dave, Brian, Rob, Paul, Steve, Kelly, Tony, Gabie, Helen, Kerryn, Mark and Quentin, thank you for having the courage to push through, regardless of the hurdles that were faced along the way - weather, venue, COVID, fatigue - the list goes on!



SCOUTS

As we continue in our busy year, where we are trying to re-find our purpose, and re-engage in all that we do, thank you to the many adults who support our youth in developing as active citizens. No matter what they go on to achieve, you are helping to shape the community leaders and influencers of tomorrow!

Finally, congratulations to all the 2021/22 Grey Wolf recipients.

Emma Watson

Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts)



Grey Wolf Awards

1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

1st Blaxland

Benjamin Davis
Hannah Pilawa

1st Carlingford

Jose Paulraj
Poppy Brown

1st Dural

Brigitte Zapletal
Christian Zapletal
Elijah Dawson

1st Ermington

Ameeshi Wesumperuma

1st Hawkesbury

Arthur Jenkinson

1st Kellyville

Lucas McKeon

1st Rouse Hill

Pumindu Dias

1st Westmead

Aleesha Kundi
Angel Thomas
Leia Panigrahi
Nikhil Sriram

1st Winston Hills

Tyler Bisson

2nd Baulkham Hills

Aiden McGovern

2nd Castle Hill

Alexander Gray
Jonah Pickering

2nd Kings Langley

Briana Wood

Western Sydney (BLIA)

Brian Yee

Well even with a second year of Covid we managed to achieve a fair bit. We successfully ran the largest Jamboree we have seen in many years with almost 1000 people in attendance. The weather behaved and everyone had a great time. We had many out of region units join us with units from Sydney North, Hume, Riverina and the ACT.

We held two Basic Scout Leadership courses. One in May 2021 and one in March 2022 which allowed almost 60 scouts to gain their qualification. Both courses were modified to suit the weekends, with one helping run a base at the Joey Fun Day and the other because of the inclement weather. Both courses were a complete success.

Our Region Unit Council Camp was held in February. We had 38 people attend. Some units managed to plan their year while others discovered how much they could do themselves within their units back home.

I have been the Region Commissioner Scouts for five years and in that time, we have done some amazing activities. Although I am moving on to a new role, I know I am leaving the region in great hands with Brett Nicholas taking on the role. I would like to thank Brett and the rest of our team for all the support they have given me over the last five years. I would like to thank all the scouts, venturers, rovers and leaders throughout the region for their support as well. Without the support of the region members our jobs would be impossible to do and we couldn't deliver the activities we do.

Yours in Scouting

Tracey (Wiangi) Stopps
Region Commissioner (Scouts)



Benard Kodsy	1st Blaxland
Wanyi Jiang	1st Castle Hill
Matthew Schiller	1st Castle Hill
Cameron Luck	1st Glossodia
Adam Boxsell	1st Kellyville
Zachary Mckeon	1st Kellyville
Ella Stainwright	1st Kellyville
Lucas Burns	1st North Rocks
Byron Garden	1st South Penrith
Aamir Moonim	1st Westmead
Eyad Nasir	1st Winston Hills
Lily Grant	2nd Baulkham Hills
Khyati Lingerker	2nd Baulkham Hills
Zaran Mortimer	2nd Kings Langley
Edward Paul	2nd Kings Langley
Scott Romanis	West Pennant Hills Valley

VENTURER SCOUTS

As we move into our third year of the pandemic, we move into a new phase of adapting to its impacts. We are no longer cancelling events but instead dealing with individuals having to go into isolation, with its consequential impacts on keeping events viable.

Last year was split into three - up to the start of the second big lockdown, the lockdown itself, and the period after. During the first period, GWS Venturers ran an Initiative Activity and had a good turnout at Jamborette. The second period felt a lot longer than it probably was, but we did manage to offer a well-attended, fully online Leadership Course. The third period saw the return of a full weekend Waratah, and the welcome return of Dragon Skin after three years.

Jamborette in 2021 was a huge success, with a large contingent of Venturers to run bases for the Scouts. The weather was very good and we snuck in just before COVID took hold again. Congratulations to 1st Glossodia for being selected as best base by the Scouts.

Waratah is our major regional event for Venturers and older Scouts. We headed into the highlands south of Oberon again for a Dragnet-style event. We were very pleased with the numbers - 120 Venturers and a large contingent of staff from Rovers and Leaders from GWS, Hunter & Coastal, Sydney North and the Golden West Regions - it bodes well for the future of events in the Region. Congratulations to the team from 1st Glossodia who won the event with a very clever late minute maneuver to come out of the forest and cross the line without losing a life.

In January, District Leaders Matthew Vella and Andrew Cross put together a mountain biking activity that was designed to cover off a number of the pre-requisites for levels 3 and 4 MTB. The activity was held at the Castlereagh Nature Reserve in January. We all got a practical lesson in just how sticky the mud can be on bike tracks with only a little bit of moisture.

A small number of Venturers and a larger group of Scouts joined me to work as Service Leaders at Cataract for GWS Cuborette. The biggest debate for that weekend was whether it was wetter than the 2016 Jamboree, also at Cataract. I have my own views on that one, but suffice to say it was very wet but a lot of fun.

Dragon Skin is the premier event for Venturers in New South Wales. Held over Easter, it has been three years



since we last ran the event. Dragon Skin this year was held at Belanglo State Forest in the southern highlands of NSW. Traffic on Good Friday is always heavy but seemingly everyone from Sydney trying to get away for the first fine, pandemic-free weekend in ages. So it was quite late before the last people in the forest arrived. But thankfully we had four days of brilliant sunshine, 27-degree days, a little bit of fog, but really the weather was perfect. Congratulations to all teams who completed the event, but particularly to the team from 1st Ermington who came in 6th for the event overall.

Our Queen’s Scout awardees have rebounded this year with 22 Venturers achieving the award. This is an amazing result considering lockdowns, uncertainty with being able to run activities and the transition from the old scheme to the new. Congratulations to each awardee, their families, and their Units.

All Venturer units have now transitioned to the new youth program. That has allowed my team to realign our courses and activities to the new program. You will now see the focus move to special interest areas, “I can” statements, and the specific requirements of the program.

I would like to thank my team Damon Love, Matthew Vella, Andrew Cross and Erica Dilworth and our youth representatives Iluka Jelley from 1st Kellyville and Evan La Fontaine from 1st Castle Hill 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.

We have managed to come out of COVID relatively unscathed, with strong membership numbers and good attendance at events. I’m looking forward to working with everyone to build on our achievements and continue with the very pleasing results of 2022.

Yours in Scouting

Brian Nelson
Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts)






Robert Burrows	2nd Baulkham Hills
Connor Williams	1st North Rocks
Toby Stone	1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s)
Hannah Wilson	2nd Baulkham Hills
Dale Abnett	2nd Kings Langley
Mitchell Vanderjagt	1st Westmead
Alexander Quan	1st Kellyville
Natasha Ball	1st Ermington
Madison Harris	1st Oakville
Joshua Tang	1st Castle Hill
Corbin Ellis	1st Kellyville
Cassandra Fry	2nd Baulkham Hills
Iluka Jelley	1st Kellyville
Khushi Gudipati	1st Westmead
Phoebe Hendriks	2nd Baulkham Hills
Isabella Coundrelis	1st North Rocks
Eleanore Favotto	1st Oakville
Nathan Leung	1st Balcombe Heights
Adriel Sukumar	1st Westmead
Chloe Tyrrell	1st Glossodia
Zachary D’Amicis	1st Oakville
Jade Evans.	1st Ermington



ROVERS

2021 provided a number of unique challenges to the Rovers of Greater Western Sydney, which they were able to adapt to and overcome through their dedication and perseverance. Despite much of the year being spent indoors due to Covid-19 lockdowns, Units rose to the challenge and modified their programs in order to continue Scouting from home. Through their enthusiasm and passion for Roving, many Units were able to deliver well-structured and diverse virtual programs on short notice. Additionally, it was fantastic to see so many Rovers from GWS participating at both a Region and State level.

Even though much of the year was spent in lockdown, that didn't stop several of our Rovers from working tirelessly to achieve their goals. A huge congratulations to Naomi Davey, Cameron Letta, Damon Love, and Rose Mercieca for achieving their peak awards. Furthermore, six Rovers were awarded their Wood Badge. They put in much hard work and consistent effort towards achieving these awards, and it is fantastic to see where their journeys have taken them.

I'd like to thank Cameron Letta and the rest of the Region Rover Council executive. In the face of uncertainty, they were able to adapt to their new roles seamlessly and keep everything running smoothly at a Region level. Their unwavering commitment to assisting Units and improving Roving in GWS is well deserving of recognition.

Although numerous events were cancelled due to Covid lockdowns or extreme weather, many Rovers still endeavoured to get out there and lend a helping hand. GWS Region Jamborette saw over 50 Rovers attend, with many of them assisting in the planning and running of an activity base there. Additionally, once restrictions had been eased in the latter half of the year, there was a significant Rover presence at Waratah. Furthermore, there was a wide variety of activities taking place at a Unit level, such as several Bunnings BBQs, camps, creative nights, hikes, and games throughout the year.

Unfortunately, Kings Langley's Cartoon Mootwork was not able to run, and they provided the opportunity for another Unit to step up and put forward a tender for the Region Moot. Nepean Rover Unit did just this, and Boot Scootin' Moot was approved by the Region to run in August of 2022. Additionally, it was proposed that we run a yearly GWS Rovers social event, similar to Sydney

North's Harbour Cruise or Magical Mystery Tour. It was agreed upon that the event will be Halloween themed, and a project patrol has been established to oversee the planning and running of this event.

To finish the year off, Cameron and a small team reworked the Rovies, GWS Rovers' annual awards ceremony, rebranding it as the Rover Council Recognition Awards. Many Rovers were acknowledged for their consistent efforts towards Roving, with Alyson Vella and Ryan Kemp winning the Commissioner's and Chair's awards respectively for going above-and-beyond in their duties and embodying the spirit of the Rover section.

I look forward to working with the rest of the executive team this year, and furthering the development of Roving within GWS by supporting all of the wonderful Units within our Region. We are excited to see what the year ahead of us will bring.

Yours in Scouting,

Ingrid Watt
Region Rover Council Chair 2022-23



2021 ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS



SILVER KOALA – for Distinguished Service

WATTS, Duncan ----- District Scout Leader, Hawkesbury District



SILVER WATTLE AWARD – for Outstanding Service

ASTLEY, Jodie----- Venturer Scout Leader-DA, 1st Erskine Park Venturer Unit
 BATH, Andrew----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Venturer Unit
 CHAMBERLAIN, Joanne----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith Joey Mob 'Jamison'
 FLORES, Tristan----- Regional Leader(Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region
 FRY, Michael----- Venturer Scout Leader, 2nd Baulkham Hills Venturer Unit
 LOMBARDI, Elena----- Regional Leader, Greater Western Sydney Region
 PRIEST, Tracey----- Group Leader, 1st Cambridge Park Scout Group
 SHAW, Jodie----- District Joey Scout Leader-DA, Penrith City District
 STEVENS, Jennifer----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Springwood Venturer Unit
 WALLACE, Kelly----- Trainee Leader (Joey Scout), 1st South Penrith Joey Mob 'Jamison'
 WATTS, Caroline----- District Joey Scout Leader, Hawkesbury District



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD – for Outstanding Service

DUNCAN, Glenn----- District Delegate, Greater Western Sydney Region
 THOMPSON, Meagan----- Adult Helper, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD – for Excellent Service

ARROWSMITH, John----- Group Leader, 1st Grose Vale Scout Group
 BENNETT, Emily----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kings Langley Cub Pack 'Impeesa'
 BOULTON, David----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Cambridge Park Scout Troop
 BURNS, David----- Group Trustee, 1st North Rocks Scout Group
 CALAFATE, Anthony----- Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Scout Troop
 CRAIG, Graeme----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group
 DYBALL, Richard----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Cub Pack 'Boronia'
 GLANVILLE, Stevan----- Scout Leader, 2nd Northmead Scout Troop
 HEATH, Carol----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Hawkesbury Cub Pack
 HUGHES, Stephen----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Scout Troop
 JEFFERIES, Paul----- Regional Leader(Activities), Greater Western Sydney Region
 KIRKBY, Aline----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Grose Vale Scout Troop
 LEGUIER, Jason----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Venturer Unit
 MCCREDDEN, Ann----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Venturer Unit
 MOXEY, Paul----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith Scout Troop 'Yee Na Pah'
 NICHOLAS, Brett----- District Scout Leader, Holroyd District
 OWEN, Andrew----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Cub Pack 'Kookaburra'
 PRANTS, Alar----- Group Chairman, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Group
 REID, Renee----- Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Troop
 RIGBY, Robert----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith Cub Pack 'Panther'
 WATSON, Emma----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Cub Pack 'Alleena'
 WILSON, Laurence----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Scout Troop



SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD – For Good Service

- ANTALA, Rachel ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Erskine Park Cub Pack
- BISSON, Simone ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Joey Mob
- BLOW, Isabella ----- Adult Helper, 1st Carlingford Scout Group
- BRAGG, Stuart ----- Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Scout Troop
- CHAN, Chor Shing ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Cub Pack
- CHENG, Chih-Ching ----- Group Trustee, 1st Ermington Scout Group
- COUNDRELIS, Richelle ----- Trainee Leader(Venturer), 1st North Rocks Venturer Unit
- COVENY-GARLAND, Dianne ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Cub Pack
- CRUICKSHANK, Matthew ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Venturer Unit
- EDWARDS, Jonathan ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Dural Joey Mob
- GAIR, Peter ----- Trainee Leader(Scout), 1st Castle Hill Scout Troop
- HOWE, Richard ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Scout Troop
- HUGGETT, Jason ----- Group Secretary, 1st Ermington Scout Group
- JIANG, Hong ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Cub Pack ‘Kookaburra’
- KAHN, Laura ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Riverstone Cub Pack
- LESSELLS, David ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Cub Pack
- LEWIS, Kevin ----- Group Chairman, 1st Winston Hills Scout Group
- LONGMUIR, Jordan ----- Rover, 2nd Baulkham Hills Outdoor Rover Crew
- MARSH, Gavin ----- Group Trustee, 1st Ermington Scout Group
- MCGINTY, Lachlan ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Balcombe Heights Joey Mob
- MERRYFULL, Jodi ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Cub Pack
- MILNE, Tony ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Cub Pack ‘Pukeena’
- SEARLE, Timothy ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Venturer Unit
- SYMONS, Karissa ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Dural Cub Pack
- UNWIN, Elaine ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Joey Mob
- XUE, Kai ----- Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st North Rocks Joey Mob



ACTIVITIES

If I tried to sum up 2021-2022 in one word, I would say **"CHANGE!"**

Change, in the way we do many things now, as we come out of a worldwide pandemic.

Change, in the whole structure of Scouting from the Youth Programme Review, to having the one unique progression booklet from Joeys to Rovers. **Change** in the way we document the paperwork for activities. **Change** in how we record information, and even **change** in our training methods.

Some say there is too much change, and in some ways, I tend to agree. But I have been involved with Scouting for a while now, and I have seen a whole generation of youth come through. Many of my old Scouts are now married with kids of their own!

If there had been no change in that time, I do believe Scouting would have become flat and irrelevant.

In keeping with the demands of this new digital age, it is not a case of just adapting as expectations change; as the largest youth organization in the world, we need to lead; we need to be proactive; to be dynamic. To provide the youth of today with the skills and intuition that will give them confidence and resourcefulness, both now and into the future, in whatever that brings.

Yes, there is much change, but the principles we nurture in Scouting have not changed. Leadership, teamwork, helping other people, having an attitude of servanthood within the community. All timeless qualities I hope we will never lose.

Some of the challenges for GWS Region Activities Team this last 12 months, had not just been COVID related. A serious Abseiling accident in the Blue Mountains put a stop to all vertical rope activities for some months, while investigations were carried out. Then in more recent times, unprecedented rain, causing significant flooding has also had a big effect on what we could, or could not do.

We were very fortunate with "big ticket" items like the Region Jamborette, the Scout Summer Fun Days, and the Region Cuborette, all still able to proceed. Likewise, with the Golden West Region "Time Warp Camp" out at Lake Canobolas, where the GWS Activities Team certainly played a big part of the site (and offsite) activities. I know there have been many a sleepless

night by Leaders with all these events, dodging "COVID Bullets," as to whether the activity could proceed or not.

One of the driving forces in all the above was the simple fact that many youth members had not really camped or done much "scouty" stuff in nearly two years.

As I do each year, and this year is no exception, I would like to pass on my continuing sincere thanks to everybody on the Region Activities Team. For their tireless work, their scrupulous attitude to ensuring absolute safety in all that we do, and of course their sense of fun and adventure. It is a pleasure to be able to lead such a dedicated team.

It was with sadness that I accepted the resignation of David (Macca) McKinley, from the Activities Team, stepping down from a long and rewarding "career" in Scouting.

I know everyone will share with me in thanking Macca for his contribution, not just to the Activities Team, but Scouting in general, over many years.

I was also pleased to be able to welcome Andrew McCormick onto the Team. As a Rover, Andrew is the "new generation" in the Activities Team, and has high level skills in a variety of outdoor pursuits. I would also like to welcome Andrew Jenkinson onto the team. Being a Science Teacher himself, Andrew is keen to support John Leahy with the Science Team, and its incredible array of unique activities.

Of course, I cannot do my job without the support of the whole Region Team, headed up by our Region Commissioner, David Stopps. I must also acknowledge Wendy Dimmock who diligently looks after our Region Office, for all her help and support throughout the year.

I guess with **change**, there will always be some challenges, and is facing challenges one of the great virtues we teach in Scouting?

And as I have said previously, it is still the wide bit of a paddle, you stick in the water.

...good to see not everything has changed!

Mark Fell (Dingo)

Region Commissioner (Activities)

Deputy Chair, Asst. Technical Director & Stage Manager
(Cumberland Gang Show)

MEMBER SUPPORT

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

Our role includes educating our frontline leaders in how to be more supportive in trying times if and when the need arises in their group, district or region.

We are the source of information and support, but we do not replace professional counsel. More details about our Child Health and Safety measurers can be found in:

www.nsw.scouts.com.au/about/child-health-safety

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

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

1. Becoming the 'on the ground' face of Scouts NSW Child Safety initiatives – particularly at large events;
2. Understanding and explaining Scouts NSW Child Protection policies and procedures;

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW



The year 2021 was another challenging year for Cumberland Gang Show, driven by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Gang Show started the year as usual with a cast of 155 and a show called "Rise Up". This show was originally created for 2020, which was modified into a one act, 90-minute format to suit the Covid-19 environment. A comprehensive Covid-19 Safety Plan was developed and implemented to keep everyone safe and operating within government rules. With some creative juggling, we managed to get rehearsals underway in March. Through an extraordinary effort over the next four months, we got right through the rehearsal season including the warehouse, with rules changing on a weekly basis and our management, cast and crew

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. Why not nominate yourself and join this dedicated team of supporters.

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

The Member Support Team can be contacted through our GWS Region Office on 02 9639 2488 or email: membersupport@greaterwestscouts.com.au

Our State Child Protection Hotline can also be contacted in emergencies on 02 9735 9000 or ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au

Carol Cope
Region Commissioner (Member Support)
Youth Safe Advocate

responding to every challenge. In the end, every item was ready to perform and every song and dance memorised, all the sets were made, all the costumes manufactured, all the cueing done, and all the technical departments ready to go, when everything suddenly changed.

It was during Bump-in at the Riverside Theatre on 22nd June 2021 when a huge surge in Covid-19 cases caused the Premier of NSW to announce a complete shutdown that meant no performances, no audiences with most of Sydney put into lockdown with stay-at-home orders.

We immediately put the show on hold with the hope that we might be able to perform in some form later. Our message to the Gang was: "We had a variety of plans to do a limited number of performances following the end of the lockdown". We hoped that would happen. The safety of all the Gang and our audiences remained our highest priority.

Unfortunately, the Covid situation did not improve, and the NSW Government announced a string of further lockdowns until mid-October, by which time there was



no reasonable scenario to perform the show in any form, in any venue at any time. We had no choice but to cancel the 2021 show and bump-out of Riverside 3 months later.

Gang Show Management Committee and Production team were not idle in this time. We put together a range of different scenarios based on every conceivable possibility that might arise. We had our first plans out by 3rd July (before performances were scheduled to start) and multiple options with a hope to conduct the Show and give the Scouts & Guides the opportunity to perform after all those rehearsals. In the end our ultimate fall-back plan was thwarted by government's health rules which prevented the Gang and crew getting together in any form. At that point, we cancelled the show. There was nothing else we could do. Even bumping out required a fully vaccinated crew.

The cancellation of the show meant that we had to refund all the ticket revenue and yet we had incurred most of the costs of putting on the show. This left the show in a difficult financial position. As a result, we initiated a GoFundMe appeal and we asked for donations. We sincerely thank the many wonderful Gang members, families and friends who donated to our fund-raising campaign, either directly or indirectly. We were simply overwhelmed by the huge amount of good-will and support that was given to our show. In addition, we applied for whatever government Covid-19 support we were eligible for, and we were delighted to receive a significant grant. The combination of reduced costs from some of our suppliers, ticket refund donations, GoFundMe donations and a NSW Government grant meant the show was able to pay all our costs for 2021 and left us in a better than expected financial position.

It was the second time in fifty years that Cumberland Gang Show did not perform, and the cast and crew were understandably disappointed. However, Gang Show is way more than just two weeks of performances in July and the experiences, the training, the achievements, and the friendships that we made in 2021 were reflected in the many wonderful memories that we were able to create in the four months when we were together.

The extraordinary efforts of the whole Gang in 2021 to put together the "Rise Up" show in the face of unbelievable challenges, shows the resilience and determination that is characteristic of not just Gang Show, but Scouting & Guiding in general. The way the Gang, the Production team and Management Committee responded to the situation is testimony to the spirit of Cumberland Gang Show.

Nine members of Cumberland Gang Show were recognised in the 2021 Good Service Awards for their service to Scouting, including service to Gang Show. 2021 also saw a change in management roles within the management committee with Lyall Wood, Jeanie Wood and Neville Henderson stepping aside for new committee members. On behalf of the whole Gang, we thank them for their outstanding and dedicated service to Cumberland Gang Show.

The Management Committee of Cumberland Gang Show is very much looking forward to a more normal year in 2022.

Peter Lee
Management Committee Chair

RADIO, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

This Activity has been gradually getting back into Scout halls as Groups struggle to rebuild their programs after virtual Scouting for two years. We have delivered a couple of 'Bug Off' and 'Arcs & Sparks' nights, a 'Water Rockets' and a 'Light' night, around the Region.

Our major contribution this year was through Group organised events, starting with the **GWS 'Summer Fun' weekend** in April '21. I provided a 'Marble Run' for Joeys and a 'Wind Tunnel Flight' challenge for Scouts, Karl demonstrated 'Laser engraving' to Scouts and Cubs, and Andy lead the Scouts and Venturers in 'Dissecting Cells and Batteries'.

We were at Bundilla again for the **GWS Joey Fun Day** in May '21, with a couple of tables of objects to explore and manipulate. It was a sunny day, so one object was a cardboard box (dark room) with a 'film camera' attached. It went over his head, so the Joey could see the inverted image on the translucent screen.

Our bases at the **GWS Jamborette** included a 'Laser Reflection' game involving four Ping Pong bats with attached LASER pointer, and mirrors on the other three bats. Each bat was at the end of a 3 meter rod to keep the laser beam high. The aim was to reflect the beam off a series of mirrors into a 6cm diameter target on the wall and hold it there for 3 seconds.

Another base featured Defying Gravity by showing 'washers falling up a rod' and a 'pendulum that preferred to hang up'. I also had models which showed polystyrene beads 'floating on ultrasonic waves', and a self balancing 'Segway' type two wheeled robot. Other Bases demonstrated 'vibration patterns in a metal plate' at various audio frequencies, 'Filament' and 'UV liquid 3D printers', and Karl's fantastic (and award winning) 'cosplay costumes'.

This year's GWS **JOTA/JOTI** was mainly 'On The Internet' due to Covid, and was organised by James Goh (South Met), Brett Nicholas (GWS Leader and National JOTA/JOTI Co-ordinator), Pete Cherry (Hume Region), and Robin Garrett "Batman" (GWS Region). They programmed talks and games for the weekend, and it turned out really well. Radio operators from the Blue Mountains Amateur Group were involved in the 'Battle Ship' game.

I joined Robin in his garage 'shack' for a few hours on Saturday afternoon and heard the 'Antarctica talk' by Chris Ward, Activities Leader in South Met Region. I learnt about Black Ice and how it is formed, and how to recover your tracked vehicle from a snow covered crevice or when it breaks through the sea ice.

The final activity for the year was to travel to Orange for their **Golden West Region Summer "Time Warp" Camp** over five days. We had an idea of which sections would be on site each day, so I developed a daily program of Science demonstrations and loaded Andy's 4WD to the gunnels (there would be no ducking home to pick up forgotten bits), and headed off on Sunday the 2nd Jan.'22 for Camp Canobolas.

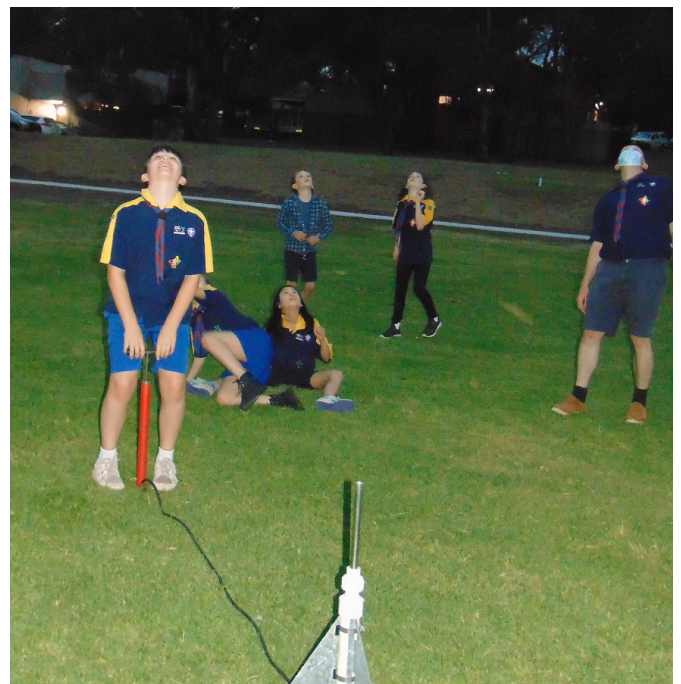
'Water Rockets' is a favourite with all sections so was programmed most days. For Joeys we demonstrated 'Chemistry' and 'Marble Run'; Cubs were 'Arcs&Sparks' and 'Slime' making; Scouts 'Make a D Cell', 'Defying Gravity', and 'LASER Deflect', and Venturers 'Microwave Oven' experiments.

We had had three warm sunny days, the fourth evening put on an impressive display of thunder and lightning, but the next day was fine again so I decided to make 'Candy Rockets' with the Venturers before tea on the last day.

As Andy described it: "Although the dark and menacing sky should have been enough warning for any sensible individuals, but no... we found a place to pack the rockets, attach their sticks and fuses and off to the parade area to launch them, storm almost upon us... We did make the not so scientific conclusion that 'water and candy rockets don't go well together' with only one successful firing."

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

During last year and lock down, many of Blacktown groups were still meeting online and doing some great things to engage the youth members. Cooking nights, back yard camps and fires, care packages so that all members had the same items for the next night. Virtual hikes and so much more.

It was tentative when things started to go back to normal as many were hesitant to participate, but it was great to see this slowly gain momentum.

All Blacktown groups have been getting record number of enquiries with many groups seeing more members joining.

All groups are doing well, there are always challenges, but they are doing well and continuing to grow. I am very proud of all the leaders in this district for continuing their great work and meeting all the challenges the last year has had and come out for the better.

Elena Lombardi
District Commissioner

BLUE MOUNTAINS

No report received.

Jodie Astley
District Commissioner

HILLS

The past year has again been challenging for all. The on-going covid and severe weather impacts have dampened the program, but despite those attempts our Leaders and Youth have prevailed to deliver exciting programs. The wonderful, energetic, and talented Hills District has remained agile and met each of the hurdles and designed creative ways to overcome them. I am continually in awe and proud of the Hills Leaders, Youth and parent Committees for adapting and showing true perseverance to deliver a meaningful program, whether face to face or digitally.

Membership has again increased, with most Groups implementing waiting lists. Despite a growth in Leaders for the District there is still insufficient adults to permit entry to the eagerly waiting youth members. More support is needed at a State level to address this on-going shortage.

It is very pleasing to see the active outdoor program that has been implemented since covid lock downs relaxed. The many and varied programs have seen our youth engaged and learning new skills and achieving significant award scheme milestones.

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. This support enables the Leaders to focus on the youth and program.

Our youth continue to grow with the youth led adult supported process. A number of support and mentoring networks were established within the District which continue to provide a benefit to all.

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.

The year ahead is forecast to see further growth with youth membership enquiries, without assistance to find additional Leaders, these youth could potentially be lost. A couple of Groups are pushing over 100 members and two are competing to be the first in the District to crack 150 members.

I would like to personally thank the adult members for their dedicated & selfless service to the youth in the District. The on-going constraints have not made it easy and many are still 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. Everyone continues to give up more than their fair share of '2 hours per week', thank you. Together we are making a difference to many young minds and building resilient character within them. Thank you.

Terry Brooke
District Commissioner

HOLROYD

Congratulations to the following Youth members of Holroyd District.

Queen Scout Awarded to:

Toby Stone - 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's)
Mitchell Vanderjagt - 1st Westmead
Khushi Gudipati - 1st Westmead
Adriel Sukumar - 1st Westmead

Congratulations to all who have achieved excellence in their badge work and are now working on the new badge system.

To all the Groups in the Holroyd District, thank you for your continued support to all your members in various ways during the Covid Period and beyond.

Thanks to those parents who have taken up the challenge to become leaders or have taken positions on their respective group committees.

Finally, and most importantly, to all those leaders of each section, for your continued loyalty and devotion to your groups during the past 12 months.

Ron Brown
District Commissioner

PARRAMATTA

No report received.

Tracey Hansford
District Commissioner

PENRITH CITY

No report received.

Jodie Astley
District Commissioner

SCOUT FELLOWSHIPS

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

There continues to be 16 members of Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship. While Johnathan Lilly resigned due to his heavy work commitments, Rachel Hornstra has joined. Last year Bob Matthews was appointed as an Associate member of our Fellowship as he was unable to gain a Working with Children Check (WWCC) nor complete his e-learning modules Work Place Health and Safety and Child Safe, modules that only have a life span of three years. Bob is unable to meet the new rules for Associate members which now requires them to be registered on Scoutlink and to meet the above requirements for registration. Following my strong representations on his behalf, the Chief Commissioner has approved for Bob Matthews to be appointed as an Honorary member of Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship.

While most of our members are involved in support of Cumberland Gang Show, we continually seek to expand our membership base. Oversight of Scoutlink member records continues to be difficult as the Fellowship only has access to the records of members with a Primary Appointment to the Fellowship. The records of members with a Secondary Appointment continue to be unable to be accessed.

Many of our number were involved in preparations for the 2021 season of Cumberland Gang Show titled Rise Up. While the rehearsal season went well, the new Coronavirus lockdown was announced as the Show was being bumped in to the theatre. The season was again deferred in the hope that the Show could

be performed in some form. Ultimately all attempts were impractical and the Season was cancelled. The 2022 season is now in rehearsal to be performed with a reduced schedule of five performances and with the new title of Next Level.

Our social program was again constrained by Covid lockdowns. Following our AGM in April, some members attended the ANZAC Service at Club Merrylands. Subsequently in May we thoroughly enjoyed a night out for dinner at the Villagio Restaurant at Club Merrylands. Our June Business Meeting was the last before the lockdown commenced. We held several Zoom meetings over the following months. In August we had a trivia night, in September an "Escape Room" night and in October a Business Meeting. We finished the year in person with an end of year picnic at Bungarabee Reserve Doonside in November. This year commenced with an online wine and cheese night in February followed by a visit to Bilpin in March. The many online gatherings enabled Jeff and June Harrison to join us from Wagga Wagga.

Many of our members are also active in other Scouting appointments in Groups, the Region and the State.

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

Special thanks to my fellow members of the Executive and Leadership team: Secretary Jeanie Wood, Treasurer Evelyn Wilson, Deputy Chairperson Marion Van Rooy, Activities Co-ordinator Brendan Richards and Publicity Officer Adele Lockman. 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 2022-2023, hopefully 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 and the recent high rainfall. 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.

We currently have 11 active members, which includes one Associate Member.

Our service activities to date in 2020/21 included;

- GWS Summer Scout Fun Days - provide BBQ lunch at Bundilla
- Momentum at Bundilla
- Region Jamborette at Cataract
- JOTA/JOTI - Battleships online
- Cooking at Bundilla for 1st Blaxland Cub Scout Camp

Our social activities in 2020/21 included;

- Lunch at Rower's Club Penrith and visit to the Nepean Naval and Maritime Museum
- Christmas dinner at Ori Cafe, Springwood

Our Fellowship has been regularly represented at the following meetings;

- District Council
- State Scout Fellowship Council
- Region Executive

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 Tamssett

Chairperson - Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship

PINNAROO SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

Once again it has been a quiet year due to Covid-19 and our long lockdowns.

We started the year in our usual busy manner with members assisting at Westmead Cubs and Parramatta Scouts, while other members were involved with Gang Show which unfortunately had to be cancelled again.

We assisted with cooking BBQ lunch and transporting it to the busy leaders at the Region Summer Fun Day, while others worked on a base, in addition we served afternoon tea at the Region ARP

We also catered for the State Board meeting that was held at Bundilla.

In the community we were able to collect for Red Shield appeal as well as our annual collection for Ronald McDonald House.

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

When the lockdown was eased, we once again prepared gifts for the residents of Southern Cross Nursing Home, however, we were unable to sing Christmas Carols, hopefully this can resume next Christmas. We celebrated Christmas with a picnic, a chance to meet after the long lockdown.

Congratulations to Mark Burfield on receiving a Silver Emu in the World Scout Day Awards.

We look forward to a year where we can be more active with lockdowns behind us.

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

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