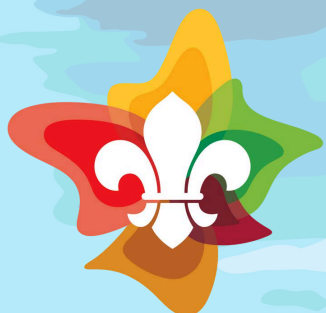




Scouts Australia, NSW Greater Western Sydney Region 78th Annual Report April 2024 - March 2025



Greater Western Sydney Region

Blue Mountains District

- 1st Blackheath Scout Group
- 1st Blaxland Scout Group
- 1st Blue Mountains "Kalangadoo" Rover Unit
- 1st Hazelbrook Scout Group
- 1st Springwood Scout Group

Blacktown/Holroyd District

- 1st Kings Langley Scout Group
- 1st Mt Druitt Scout Group
- 1st Nurragingy Scout Group
- 1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Scout Group
- 1st Toongabbie Scout Group
- 2nd Kings Langley Scout Group
- Blacktown Rover Unit
- 1st Greystanes Scout Group
- 1st Westmead Scout Group
- 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Scout Group
- 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Rover Unit

Hawkesbury District

- 1st Glossodia Scout Group
- 1st Grose Vale Scout Group
- 1st Hawkesbury Scout Group
- 1st Oakville Scout Group
- Hawkesbury River Rover Unit

Gang Show

- Cumberland Gang Show

Hills District

- 1st Balcombe Heights Scout Group
- 1st Castle Hill Scout Group
- 1st Dural Scout Group
- 1st Kellyville Scout Group
- 1st Rouse Hill Scout Group
- 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Group
- 2nd Baulkham Hills 'Outdoor' Rover Unit
- 2nd Castle Hill Scout Group
- 2nd Castle Hill Rover Unit

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 Winston Hills Scout Group
- 2nd Northmead Scout Group
- Kings Langley Rover Unit
- Western Sydney (BLIA) Scout Group

Penrith City District

- 1st Cambridge Park Scout Group
- 1st Erskine Park Scout Group
- 1st South Penrith Scout Group
- Nepean Rover Unit

Scout Fellowships

- Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship
- Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship
- Hawkesbury Black Horse Scout Fellowship
- Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship
- Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship



Greater Western Sydney

Region Team 2024 - 2025

REGION PRESIDENT	Ross Grove
REGION CHAIRPERSON	Craig Kennedy
REGION TREASURER	Elena Lombardi
REGION SECRETARY	Melanie Dimmock
REGION COMMISSIONER	Tony Dent

DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	Stephen Wallace
DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER	Matt Thompson

REGION OFFICE MANAGER	Wendy Dimmock
BUNDILLA CAMP COORDINATOR	Tracey Priest

Region Commissioners

RC JOEY SCOUTS	Brian Zarth
RC CUB SCOUTS	Gabie Thompson
RC SCOUTS	Brett Nicholas
RC VENTURER SCOUTS	Matt Vella (Acting)
RC ROVERS	David Bannon
RC FELLOWSHIPS	Peter Tamsett
RC ACTIVITIES	Mark Fell/Tim West
RC ADULT TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT	Ann Pounder/Duncan Watts
RC DIVERSITY & INCLUSION	Erica Dilworth
RC INTERNATIONAL	Emma Watson
RC SPECIAL PROJECTS	Col Nicholas
RC MEMBER SUPPORT	Caroline Watts
RC PROPERTY SUPPORT	Phil Heinrich

District Commissioners

DC BLACKTOWN & HOLROYD	Ron Brown
DC BLUE MOUNTAINS	James Robinson and Andrew Davis
DC HAWKESBURY	Phil Heinrich
DC HILLS	Jodie Astley
DC PARRAMATTA	Shane Selwood and Louise Gale
DC PENRITH CITY	Tracey Priest



Contents

Minutes from 2024 Annual General Meeting	5-9
Region Financial Report	10
Region Commissioner Report	11
Region Chairperson	12-13
Deputy Region Commissioner (Group Support & Issues Management)	14
Deputy Region Commissioner (Youth Program)	15
Joey Scouts	16
Cub Scouts	17-18
Scouts	19
Venturer Scouts	20
Rover Scouts	21
Fellowships	22
Peak Awards	24-25
2024 Adult Recognition Awards	26-27
Activities	28
Adult Training and Development	29
Woodbadge Recipients	30
International	31
Diversity and Inclusion	31
Cumberland Gang Show	32
Science & Technology	33
Archery	34
District Reports	35-37
Fellowships	38-42
Gone Home	43



Greater Western Sydney Region incorporates all of the Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Parramatta and Penrith City local government areas as well as parts of the Hills Shire and Cumberland Local Government Areas.

The traditional owners of Greater Western Sydney include the Bidjigal, Cabrogal, Darkinjung, Dharawal, Dharug, Gundungura, Gweagal, and Tharawal people.



MINUTES FROM 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Scout Association of Australia, New South Wales Branch Greater Western Sydney Region 77th Annual Reporting Presentation Minutes

Meeting held at 2:30pm in the Peter Waite Room, Bundilla Scout Camp on the 2nd June 2024.

The Scout Prayer Led by William Barr, 1st Hazelbrook Venturer Scout Unit

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

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

Apologies Read by Lucinda Blair, 1st Westmead Venturer Scout Unit

Acknowledgements of Country Read by William Barr, 1st Hazelbrook Venturer Scout Unit

Acknowledgement of Safe Space Read by Lucinda Blair, 1st Westmead Venturer Scout Unit

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Motion that the minutes of the 76th Annual Reporting Presentation of the Region Council held on Sunday 4th June 2023 and circulated in the Annual Report be adopted.

Moved: Andrew MacCormick - Region Leader (Activities)


Seconded: Stephen Wallace - Deputy Region Commissioner


Carried

2. Annual Report & Financial Statement

Annual Report presented by Mr Tony Dent - Region Commissioner

Financial statement as supplied in the annual report and presented on behalf of Mr Ross Howlett – Region Treasurer.





Motion that the 2024 Annual Report and Financial Statements be adopted.

Moved: Debbie Howlett, Region Chairperson

Seconded: Craig Kennedy, Region Executive Council

Carried

3. A Few Words from our Special Guests

Our special guests took time to speak and thank our members for their commitment to scouting and support for community activities.

Speaking were:

·Mr Mark Taylor, Member for Winston Hills,

·Mr Ray Williams, Member for Kellyville

4. Presentation of the Alan Overton AM Award

Introduction by Neville Henderson/Melanie Dimmock

Award Presented by Mr Tony Dent & Previous Recipients

Citation Read by Neville Henderson

5. Election of Office Bearer

The following office bearers are appointed for a 2-year term:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| a. Region Chairperson | Mr Craig Kennedy |
| b. Region Secretary | Miss Melanie Dimmock |
| c. Region Treasurer | Ms Elena Lombardi |

All appointments were moved, seconded and carried from the floor.

It was noted that the following office bearers are in the middle of a two year term and do not require reappointment:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| a. Region President | Mr Ross Grove |
|---------------------|---------------|
- 



5. Appointment of Members of the Region Executive Committee

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| a. The Region Commissioner | Mr Tony Dent |
| b. The Region President | Mr Ross Grove |
| c. The Region Chairperson | Mr Craig Kennedy |
| d. The Region Treasurer | Ms Elena Lombardi |
| e. The Region Secretary | Miss Melanie Dimmock |
| f. Up to 5 other Commissioners | |

Deputy Region Commissioners
Region Commissioner (WH&S)
Region Commissioner Diversity and Inclusion)
Region Commissioner (Property Support)

Mr Matthew Thompson
Mr Stephen Wallace
Mr Brian Hall
Ms Erica Dilworth
Mr Phillip Heinrich
Ms Jodie Astley

- g. Up to 4 others

Mr Lyall Wood
Mrs Patricia Shaw
Mr Glen Duncan
Mr Paul Roach

- h. A Representative from the Region Rover Council

Mr Jayden Thompson

All appointments were moved, seconded and carried from the floor.

6. Election of Representatives to the Branch Council

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| a. The Region Commissioner | Mr Tony Dent |
| b. The Region President | Mr Ross Grove |
| c. The Region Chairperson | Mr Craig Kennedy |
| d. An under 30's representative | Mr Jayden Thompson |
| e. 2 additional delegates | Mr Peter Stieme
Mr Matthew Thompson |

All appointments were moved, seconded and carried from the floor.





7. Election of Members of the Region Supporters Council

a. The Region President Mr Ross Grove

b. All Commissioners Working within the Region

Mr Tony Dent
Mr Matthew Thompson
Mr Stephen Wallace
Mr Brian Zarth
Ms Gabie Thompson
Mr Brett Nicholas
Mr Matt Vella
Mr Dave Bannon
Mr Peter Tamsett
Mr Philip Heinrich
Mrs Tracey Priest
Mr Ronald Brown
Ms Tracey Hansford
Mr Neville Henderson
Mr Colin Nicholas
Mrs Ann Pounder
Ms Emma Watson
Ms Erica Dilworth

c. The Region Chairperson: Mr Craig Kennedy

d. The Region Treasurer: Ms Elena Lombardi

e. The Region Secretary: Miss Melanie Dimmock


f. Representatives from the Region Rover Council

The RRC Chairperson

The RRC Vice Chairperson

g. Any other additional supporters

Lord Mayor of the City of Parramatta
Mayor of the City of Penrith
Mayor of the City of Cumberland
Mayor of the City of Blacktown
Mayor of the City of Hawkesbury
Mayor of the City of the Blue Mountains
Mayor of the Hills Shire



All appointments were moved, seconded and carried from the floor.

8. Frequency of Meetings

That the meetings of the Region Executive Council be held on the 3rd Monday of each month except January commencing at 7:00pm. Should that day be a public holiday, the meeting shall be held the following evening.

All appointments were moved, seconded and carried from the floor.

9. Address

Mr Phil Crutchley – Assistant Chief Commissioner, Scouts Australia, NSW Branch Spoke to the achievements of the region and outlined some of the challenges and achievements of Scouting in NSW.

10. Conclusion

Mr Ross Grove – Region President, thanked everyone for their attendance and invited everyone to join for Afternoon Tea with thanks to Gumnut Patisserie Bowral.



REGION FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance Sheet

Scouts NSW - GWS

As at 31 March 2025

Account	31 Mar 2025	31 Mar 2024	31 Mar 2023
Assets			
Total Bank	92,947.02	64,787.45	75,866.02
Total Current Assets	11,753.30	16,732.16	16,787.81
Total Fixed Assets	62,825.36	58,656.81	46,209.06
Total Assets	167,525.68	140,176.42	138,862.89
Liabilities			
Total Current Liabilities	4,142.37	6,541.85	(16,869.19)
Total Non-current Liabilities	717,673.08	660,734.39	590,732.84
Total Liabilities	721,815.45	667,276.24	573,863.65
Net Assets	(554,289.77)	(527,099.82)	(435,000.76)

Profit and Loss

Scouts NSW - GWS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Account	2025	2024	2023
Trading Income			
Camping / Activities Income	260,532.11	192,628.62	167,423.17
Course / Training Income	28,435.12	13,923.34	12,401.33
Rental Income	81,365.44	42,839.06	39,445.35
Saleable Items Income	1,669.71	1,574.55	880.46
Sundry Income	20,686.74	(239.98)	(6,726.34)
Awards Dinner Income	182.35	11,116.67	15,182.29
Total Trading Income	392,871.47	261,842.26	228,606.26
Operating Expenses			
Camping / Activities Expenses	60,999.44	77,004.26	71,454.43
Course / Training Expenses	25,101.62	25,050.37	8,758.18
Rental Expenses	812.57	14,934.46	24,788.22
Saleable Items Expenses	2,190.86	941.08	1,138.59
Sundry Expenses	544.36	817.59	12,417.35
Awards Dinner Expenses	15,567.11	8,471.27	3,825.07
Employee Expenses (wages/super)	110,693.08	105,035.10	105,078.30
Bad Debt Provision	5,638.64	19,012.07	3,656.00
Motor Vehicle / Equipment Expenses	2,658.90	2,541.76	1,046.05
Repairs / Maintenance Expenses	124,974.78	49,475.28	31,554.81
Insurance Expenses	40,634.94	29,963.67	26,748.84
Workers Comp Expenses	2,322.85	1,417.80	1,044.01
Depreciation Expenses	7,890.59	5,316.56	4,162.28
Office Administration Expenses	5,695.36	4,869.55	8,220.10
Rates / Electricity Expenses	9,365.13	19,775.87	18,440.82
Merchant Card Expenses	446.61	424.75	554.45
Security of Premises	3,906.00	1,772.50	3,043.09
Staff Amenities	609.58	276.46	380.66
Total Operating Expenses	420,052.42	367,100.40	326,311.25
Net Profit	(27,180.95)	(105,258.14)	(97,704.99)

REGION COMMISSIONER

The past year has been a growing year, our numbers have increased and we have restarted a Group and made inroads to growing many others. Our challenge is still not enough Leaders but we are seeing a trend that is encouraging.

We had members of GWS at the Governor Generals Camp, Dragon Skin, Scout Hike, State Rally, and AJ2025 in Maryborough QLD and the various Rover Moots.

And within the Region there was Jamborette, Waratah, Monopoly Run, Region Walkathon and the many activities provided by a very capable Activities team.

Then there was Cumberland Gang Show, if you have never seen a Gang Show it is a fantastic event with a great varied cast of Youth from both Scouts and Guides performing on stage, having fun and learning new skills, the lights, costumes and dances moves that are delivered with great songs and voices after the many months of rehearsals is absolutely AWESOME.

It was sad to lose two of our past Region Commissioners and we our condolences go to their families as we remember the legacy they both have left in our Region. We decided to remember Neville Henderson our most recent loss by renaming the House the Neville Henderson Lodge, this will be of benefit to the wider Scouting community and will be managed as part of Bundilla Scout Camp.



We held our Adult Recognition Awards in November, and we had many worthy Leaders receive recognition for the service they have given that is above and beyond just their role in scouting, this is where we are truly recognised by our peers. BRAVOOO to all.

For the first time in a number of years we have fill all positions on the Region Team, this has been of benefit to everyone as the support to Districts and Groups is now ramping up to include Diversity and Inclusion, Member Support, Property and much more than we have been able to achieve in the past.

I thank all of the Region Executive for their hard work, and also all the Region Teams and Leaders for their ongoing support of the youth, lastly all the Leaders of the Groups without you we could not support the youth achieve their goals.

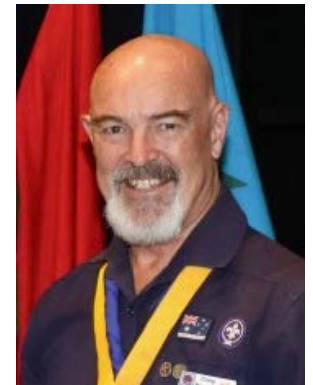
Tony Dent

Region Commissioner

Region Chairperson

Greater Western Sydney Scout Region has experienced a strong year of growth, collaboration, and development over the past 12 months. I am incredibly proud of our team and the dedication shown at every level—from youth members to executive volunteers. This report outlines our accomplishments, events, and strategic updates across the region.

We have successfully filled all executive roles, and I personally extend my gratitude to each individual for their professional contributions and time



Key Focus Areas and Updates

1. Youth Program

Our youth program remains the cornerstone of our region, providing exciting, challenging, and diverse opportunities for young people. Growth in participation, cross-region collaboration, and a vibrant calendar of events continues to define our success.

2. Work Health and Safety (WHS)

Brian Hall has led ongoing reviews and updates to our WHS protocols, ensuring we meet Scouts NSW standards and legislative requirements.

3. Property, Grants & Insurance

Significant progress has been made in hall hires, grant applications, and property management with approved P3 forms by the GWS region executives. Thanks to Jodie Astley and Phil Heinrich for their ongoing dedication.

4. Diversity & Inclusion

Erica Dilworth continues to champion inclusivity in our programs, ensuring access and representation for all youth and adult members across cultural, gender, and ability backgrounds.

5. Treasurer and Financial Oversight

Elena Lombardi has maintained transparent and robust financial records. Our financial health has enabled us to maintain our programs, halls, and youth experiences.

6. Region Rover Council

Led by Jayden Thompson, Rover representation has remained strong at all major events, further supporting the bridge between youth members and each section's leadership.

Major Events & Achievements

- **Walkathon:** A highly successful fundraising and engagement event, building regional camaraderie.
- **26th Australian Jamboree (AJ2025):** 9 units attended, including both regional and international youth members.
- **Monopoly Run:** A highly successful outdoor wide game event with each youth section engagement.
- **Dragon Skin:** Exceptional Rover representation from all Rover units, showcasing leadership and adventurous spirit.
- **Jamborette:** The GWS 46th Jamborette delivered an impactful inter-district youth event with strong volunteer support.
- **Waratah:** Delivered the Venturer section their 19th annual event
- **Cumberland Gang Show:** Delivered another outstanding season showcasing the combined theatrical skills of the cast and crew.

Region Chairperson

- **House Accommodation Initiative:** Temporary housing for Scout families continues, with a commemorative naming ceremony planned in honor of a late Region Commissioner.
- **Hall Hire Approvals:** Continued use and management of hall facilities through streamlined P3 form processes approved by the executive.
- **Fellowship:** GWS has 5 active Fellowships for Scouts over the age of 18 to support the region. These are Cumberland Gang Show, Blackhorse, Blue Mountains, Pinnaroo, Waratah
- **Region Community Bus:** The region has a bus available to hire to scout groups for scouting activities for qualified bus drivers.
- **Bundilla Scout activity centre:** The scout camp facilities have many consistent bookings for varied community groups, schools that integrate well with our youth programs, training and scout sectional meetings.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward into another year, our focus remains on:

- Continued growth in youth membership and leader support
- Enhanced training and safety practices
- Expanded diversity initiatives
- Sustained financial and property management
- Strengthening group-level support and regional unity

I am proud to be a part of such a dynamic and dedicated team within Scouts NSW. Our progress this year is a reflection of the commitment of all leaders, volunteers, parents, and of course, our incredible youth. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Greater Western Sydney Region.

Craig Kennedy

Region Chair - Greater Western Sydney Region





Deputy Region Commissioner

While 2023 marked a period of dynamic growth, 2024 was defined by the strategic stabilisation of our groups and districts.

This year, we dedicated our efforts to ensuring that robust support mechanisms—such as ARP Planning Sessions, IT Support Sessions, and more—were firmly in place.



Our six districts concentrated on strengthening their teams. Notably, we welcomed Andrew Davis and James Robinson as the shared District Commissioners for Blue Mountains, Shane Selwood and Louise Gale as the new shared District Commissioners for Parramatta, and we were delighted to welcome back Jodie Astley as the District Commissioner of Hills. Sincere thanks also go to Paul Roach for his exemplary leadership as Interim District Commissioner for Blue Mountains, and to Tracey Hansford for her leadership of, and enduring contributions to, the Parramatta District.

We are equally grateful to Ron Brown (Blacktown-Holroyd), Phil Heinrich (Hawkesbury), and Tracey Priest (Penrith City) for their exceptional work over the past 12 months. Col Nicholas has been an indispensable support to all District Commissioners as he supports our operational initiatives, and we could not have achieved our milestones without the outstanding contributions of Wendy and Tracey in the Region Office.

Looking ahead to 2025, our key priority is to further engage with our districts. Working closely with Matt and the Program Support Space, we aim to build stronger district teams and enhance direct support opportunities across our groups.

In addition to our internal improvements, we successfully launched several memorable activities and events, including last year's Annual Report Presentation, our GWS Region Awards Presentation, targeted training and planning days for the Region Team and Group Leaders, and the much-anticipated return of the infamous Monopoly Run.

I am excited about the opportunities that 2025/26 holds and remain committed to continually supporting and celebrating the incredible work of our teams.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Wallace".

Deputy Region Commissioner – Group Support and Issues Management



Deputy Region Commissioner



What a fabulous year 2024 was!

It was wonderful to see so many members of the region getting out and about enjoying activities and events again.

This year I have had the opportunity to attend many events and activities across the 2024-2025 Scouting calendar; some highlights being Peak Award and Adult Recognition Award presentations, Jamborette, Fun Days, Cumberland Gang Show 'Off The Record!' and Region Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser. We also had many members of our Region attend AJ2025 and other National/International events.

Congratulations to all the Youth Members who reached their goals and achieved their Peak Awards over the last year, the calibre of these awards continues to be of a high standard for our members.

In December 2024, Mark Fell decided to step down as our Region Commissioner (Activities). I thank Mark for his many years of service and support of the Activities team and the many Region activities and Jamborettes that he supported.

In May 2024, Peter Tamsett took on the role of Region Commissioner (Scout Fellowships) to represent, support, liaise and advocate on behalf of the five Scout Fellowships in GWS Region. My sincere thanks go to all members of the Youth Program team who continue to deliver exciting opportunities for our members:

Brian Zarth – Joey Scouts
Gabie Thompson – Cub Scouts
Brett Nicholas – Scouts
Matt Vella – Venturer Scouts (Acting)
Dave Bannon – Rover Scouts
Mark Fell / Tim West – Activities
Emma Watson – International
Peter Tamsett – Scout Fellowships

Without this team, 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.

I would also like to thank:

Wendy Dimmock, our Region Office Manager and **Tracey Priest** who do an amazing job supporting all members of the Region and for managing bookings and facilities at Bundilla.

Anne Thompson, Honorary Region Commissioner for collating our monthly Region newsletter as Bulletin Editor.

Thanks for all you do to keep our leaders and supporters informed about what is happening in our Region.

Tony Dent, **Steve Wallace** and the entire Region Team for their ongoing support and assistance.

Matt Thompson

Deputy Region Commissioner – Youth Program and Communications

SECTION REPORTS

JOEY SCOUTS

The Joey Scout section continues to be a place of adventure, discovery, and growth for our youngest Scouts. This year has been one of change and adaptation, with several District Leaders stepping into new roles or taking time away due to personal commitments. While these transitions presented challenges, our dedicated leaders have remained passionate and committed to delivering an exciting and enriching program for our Joey Scouts.

While we were unable to successfully run a Joey Fun Day this year despite several attempts, this challenge gave us an opportunity to refocus. Instead of simply trying to make an event happen, we took a step back to reassess how we could create a Fun Day that truly supports the core of the Youth Program. This renewed approach will ensure that future Joey Fun Days are more aligned with adventure, personal growth, and teamwork, making them even more meaningful for our Joey Scouts.

Despite the challenges, monthly Region Wandarrahs have been a great success, providing a consistent platform for leaders to share ideas, collaborate, and support each other. Recognizing that not all leaders could attend their District Wandarrahs, I introduced a Region-wide online Wandarrah, which has been well received. This new initiative has allowed leaders to stay engaged, exchange knowledge, and strengthen connections, ensuring that the Joey Scout program continues to thrive.

A huge thank you goes to my Region Team—Nicole Tucker, Krysta Jarvis, Leonie Plummer, Sandy Knox, and Joshua Fischer—for their dedication and support throughout the year. I also want to extend my gratitude to the other Scouting sections for their continued collaboration and encouragement. But most of all, thank you to all our Joey Scout leaders—your passion, commitment, and enthusiasm are what make this program so special. Your efforts ensure that our Joey Scouts experience fun, friendship, and adventure, laying the foundation for a lifetime of Scouting.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building momentum, strengthening leadership support, and reviving key events to ensure our Joey Scouts experience the full magic of Scouting. With our renewed focus on planning a Joey Fun Day that truly supports the Youth Program, we are confident that the next event will be more impactful, engaging, and rewarding for everyone involved. The future is bright, and together, we will embrace the adventure ahead, creating even more opportunities for our Joey Scouts to explore, learn, and grow.

Brian Zarth

Region Commissioner – Joey Scouts



CUB SCOUTS

The last twelve months in the Cub Scout section have been an eventful and productive year.

During 2024-25, four Personal Development Courses were held with each course being well attended, with a total of 121 Cub Scouts in attendance. The Cub Scouts have all been engaged and are up for whatever challenges and activities that are facilitated.

A massive thank you to Jeff Hook, who has facilitated most of these courses, often with a very small team supporting him. Thank you to those leaders across the Region who have taken an interest in this space over the last twelve months. It is great to have new faces to assist in presenting the course content, and we look forward to welcoming more venues and more support as we head into the new Scouting year.

The Region team presented two Palanee's, one in July and again in November. A Palanee is a fun-packed, two-hour training program designed for Cub Leaders, aimed at providing information, sharing ideas, getting to know people, building relationships, networking and participating in suggested program activities and games, where the Leaders are the Cub Scouts for the night! 44 Leaders attended across both events.

In July, the program was 'Olympics Around the World'. Participants had the opportunity to try out some of the interesting and unique demonstration sports and events, such as Sword Dancing from the British Isles, Lumberjacking from Canada and Emu Egg Rolling from Australia!

In November, we did some 'Cub Scout Cooking', where patrols made Lemonade Scones, Puff Pastry Pizza Pinwheels, Ham & Cheese Mini Quiches, White Christmas Tartlets and Beef Burger Sliders. We even got to eat the results, which tasted great.

Thank you to Jeff Hook and the team for their support, and to Tricia Shaw and the Pinnaroo Fellowship for assisting with catering.

Whilst many enjoyed our school holidays in July, many Cub Scouts were performing in the Cumberland Gang Show. It is great to see our younger members involved in the show and the boundless energy they bring to the experience. Congratulations to all the cast, crew and teams.

The Region Walk-a-thon was held on Sunday, 22 September, at four different locations across the Region. I was located at Bungarabee Park in Blacktown where we had a great day (I even saw a snake!). It was great seeing so many Cubs completing the 2 kilometre course many times over, with most completing 6 or 8 kilometres in total. It was great to see the whole Region coming together for the 'all section' event, and I look forward to many more in the future.

A highlight of the 2024/25 Cub calendar was the GWS Region Cub Day Out – Parramatta Ramble, held on Sunday, 27th October. The event had 200 people registered, made up of 152 Cub Scouts and 48 Leaders, and parents. Cubs enjoyed a fun day out walking around Parramatta Park and Parramatta City, catching public transport, using a map, following instructions, looking for clues, answering questions, and finding out about the local history.

Cub Scouts who completed the event participated in a Community or Personal Growth or Outdoor challenge, completed an open parklands walk for OAS Stage 1 Bushwalking, and contributed to their Walkabout award. It was a great day and fantastic to see so many Cubs and Leaders out and about in uniform on the day!



CUB SCOUTS

Once again, Cub Scouts were involved in activities on the JOTA JOTI weekend. From all reports, this was a great day. On 20th October, the Blue Mountains Fellowship held a day specifically for Joeys and Cubs at the Glenbrook Scout Hall, with over 63 youth and 24 leaders and parents that attended over the day. Well done, and thank you to all involved

In November, the Region held the GWS Region Awards Ceremony. The afternoon was a fabulous event recognising and celebrating the achievements of many Leaders, Adult supporters and parents from across the Region. I was very proud to have five excellent Cub Scouts assisting at the event with the presentation of awards and certificates. Well done and a great big thank you to the following Cub Scouts: Amelia Gale, Cian Nolan, Nina Lau, Brooke Hughes and Kirsten Lim.

On 1 March, the Region held the Monopoly Run in Penrith City, which was open to all Scouting sections. This is the first time I have attended a Monopoly Run, and I must say I was impressed. It was great to see almost 40 Cubs participating, and not only that, they were very competitive. Thank you to the team of organisers who worked on this event behind the scenes.

On 16th March, the Region water activities team held a Try Canoeing day on the Nepean River at Castlereagh. Over the course of the day, there were 60 youth members (Cubs & Joeys) who participated. Again, thanks to the team who worked on this event, giving our youth members the opportunity to challenge themselves and experience adventures such as this.

I want to thank the heroes of 2024/25 who have helped pull together a range of events for us, and welcome others to join them. Please remember to recognise those around you who you believe are worthy of recognition - for their dedication, passion, enthusiasm and engagement.

We know that events and activities do not just happen. To be successful, they need a team of dedicated people working tirelessly behind the scenes. Too often, people just turn up and expect everything to be done, without reflecting on how and who has pulled it all together.

Congratulations to all the Cub Scouts that have achieved their Grey Wolf Award over the 2024-25 Scouting year. Behind every youth member recipient is a dedicated team of Leaders and parents that support and guide the youth to achieving their full potential.

And finally, the 2025/26 Scouting year looks very promising with many more exciting, adventurous, and challenging events and activities planned for Cub Scouts and Leaders. I encourage all Leaders to get involved within your District, Region and State. The opportunities offered to our youth members are there to support the Scouting program and program leaders

Gabrie Thompson

Region Commissioner Cub Scouts



SCOUTS

What a big year we have had! The highlight must be the Australian Jamboree held in Maryborough Queensland. This saw eight GWS units boarding buses and making the 16 hour trip to Jamboree to join 10000 scouts from Australia and Internationally. Every Jamboree has its challenges and at AJ2025 it was the mud. As always, our scouts were resourceful and resilient and overcame the challenges with a smile. Through all this the scouts had a fantastic adventure enjoying all the activities and entertainment on offer. The scouts forged friendships that in many cases will be life long and discovered new things about themselves. I am sure many parents noticed the positive impact AJ2025 had on their scouts. I am sure we will see many AJ2025 participants back at the next Jamboree as Junior Service Leaders for a different experience.

If AJ2025 was the highlight then our 46th GWS Jamborette - "Greatest Hits of the 20th Century" was a very close 2nd place. We had over 1200 people participate in the Jamborette. Once again it was a great long weekend with many fantastic activities on offer. Jamborette is the camp to practice for the next Jamboree. The skills that are developed and honed at our Jamborette is vital to enhancing the experience when our scouts attend their Jamboree.

Close on the heels of Jamborette was State Rally "Ready.. Set.. Adventure". State Rally is a competitive camp where scouts utilise their lightweight camping skills. Held at Cataract, the scouts camped on their assigned RAC and spent their days enjoying the activities on offer.

Congratulations to all the Scouts who achieved their Australian Scout Award in the last twelve months. This is a huge achievement and a testament to your dedication, leadership, and commitment to the Scouting journey

Wrapping up I would like to thank every JSL, Leader and supporter who played a role in making Jamboree, Jamborette, State Rally and all the Region, District & Units activities a huge success. I would like to thank the scouts for their enthusiastic participation in our program. Last but certainly not least I would like to thank my team and the Region team for all their assistance and support throughout the year.

Brett Nicholas

Region Commissioner Scouts GWS



VENTURERS

Our year began with the Dragon Skin, the largest Venturers event held annually, featuring teams from across the state and some interstate participants. The trip to Belanglo State Forest became an event on its own, with one bus breaking down on the way. This affected a couple of teams but did not cause a setback. Our teams had an action-packed weekend, enjoying the Venturer Overnight Camps throughout the area.

A special mention goes to Natalie Castellanos and her team from our region, who led the BOOTS (Buckets of On Track Support) team. This dedicated group of Venturer leaders walks a large section of the forest each year to support the teams. Thanks to the great weather and clear skies for most of the weekend, the event was successful for many participants, including numerous first-time attendees.

In terms of results, the 2024 event saw our top-performing team, 1st Castle Hill, finish in 7th place, followed by 1st Balcombe Heights in 19th, and 1st North Rocks in 24th. These are excellent outcomes for all three units.

The regional Jamborette allows units to design and run their own activities. Each year, the Venturers organise a large number of these activities tailored to the Scouts attending. This year's event met high expectations, with the Regional Commissioner commenting that the quality of the bases run by the units greatly enhances the overall experience for Scouts in the region.

This time, the Venturers were located in a smaller sub-camp, with some adjustments made to group the units together by districts. Despite the limited space and challenges in securing tent pegs due to the weather, it was encouraging to see the level of cooperation among units. They worked together to ensure shared resources, such as camp kitchens and dining areas, were utilised effectively.

Unfortunately, the weather leading up to the event included rain, which created difficulties with campsite access and base locations. However, I was impressed with how our teams managed the situation and collaboratively resolved the issues. The 1st Castle Hill Venturer unit won the award for the best base at Jamborette.

The year's second half was notable as the regional Venturers prepared to participate in the Australian Jamboree (AJ). Venturers typically attended the AJ in support roles in past events—running activity bases or assisting with special events. However, following a five-year gap since the last AJ,

Scouts Australia allowed Venturers to participate as attendees. This change enabled them to join in the lead-up camps, with several individuals being chosen as patrol leaders for the event.

I led the year with great support from Erica and Andrew. Together, we continued to assist the Venturer leaders, many of whom have less than 12 months of experience. We focused on conducting more decentralised meetings to enhance collaboration, bringing together leadership teams from different units. We also involved leaders in conducting our district leadership courses by having them present and facilitate activities. As a result of this year's emphasis on combined activities, we have seen a positive change in each district.

The 19th annual end-of-year event for GWS Ventures, known as Waratah, was held at Scheyville National Park near Pitt Town. This year's event was formatted as a competitive Rogaine, challenging participants to use their navigation and hiking skills to find over 50 locations. A special acknowledgment goes to Tim Searle, who leads the activities; he is responsible for establishing individual checkpoints and preparing the data for participants using a dedicated app to ensure the event runs smoothly. The event was a success with support from our regional Rovers and the Waratah Activity Fellowship with catering. Based on feedback from previous events, the Night Entertainment team from the Hunter & Coast region organised activities for the Venturers on Saturday night. We look forward to another great year in 2025.

Thank you on behalf of the Regional Venturer Team.

Matthew Vella, Erica Dilworth and Andrew Cross.



ROVERS

The Rovers in Greater Western Sydney have been quite active over the past twelve months, both hosting and helping at events for all levels of Scouting, at a State, Region, Group and Unit Level.

Our recent Annual Report Presentation was held in March of 2025, where we elected the New Region Rover Council. In the same Meeting we handed out the GWS Region Council Recognition awards. The highlight of which where The Commissioners award Going to Tash Lette, and the Chair Award going to Jarrod Mathews. Both of whom where very well Deserving and later went on to be elected as part of the 20205 council.

In January a Contingent of our Rovers headed up North to help out at the Jamboree. The Stories and Pictures from the event speak for themselves in showing how much fun they had along the way.

The end of March saw another great Contingent of our Rovers head on out to the State Forrest to help set up and run some bases for Dragon Skin over Easter with a Hand full of our own helping on the VOC 4 organizing committee. At the same time, we saw a bunch of Rovers cross the Ditch to attend New Zealand Moot in Rotorua. As per tradition, Rovers headed to their local A.N.Z.A.C Services, Over 30 of our rovers headed into to the city for the Dawn Service, with a few staying behind to help carry the Banners following the March, or to play in Marching Bands.

May saw Kings Langley Rovers Once again running their Annual Formal Regressive Macca's Dinner, Raising funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charity. A Great Night for Ventures, Rovers, Leaders, Senior Guides and Olaves. This was shortly followed by Blacktown Rovers, once again running their Biggest Morning Tea for Cancer Council. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed ourselves Playing games and raising money for Cancer Council

GWS Rovers saw some of the "Greatest Hits of the 20th century" in June with Rovers headed to Jamborette to run our Bases and help on Site with Various jobs around the site help support the Event.

Blacktown Rovers ran their Queer Formal in June, continuing to embrace the LGBTQIA+ community. With the Event growing bigger each year, the coming one will surely be a good night for everyone who gets involved.

GWS Moot – "Avatar the last Mootbender" was successfully run in August by Blacktown Rovers after attending Kings Langley's "Mootendo" in the previous year. With over 100 people from right across New South the participants enjoyed Themed Bases and Catering. Congratulation to Hawkesbury River Rovers on Winning the Event!

August also saw 2 Nepean Rovers Tom & Caitlin fly althe way over to Norway for Roverway! Just goes to show Rovers is what ou make it and can take you Anywhere!

September was another moth of Driving, With Rovers heading out to Bowning to show Albury support! A little Later on in the Month they we were off to Sofala for Bush Dance, which is a Great fundraiser for Rural charity's as well as injecting a bit of Truism into the town.

GWS Waratah – "The Demigods Challenge" was an Excellent event as usual, With over 130 people in attendance. The Rovers Helped Run the Bases stationed across the the National Park, even holding some roles on the Organizing Team. As well as the lasting memories, It continues to be a great way for our Rovers to liaise with Venturers from with in and around our region. The final event for the year just past was Merryland's New Christmas Party Event, a festive night full of food, games, music and prizes to be won.



Jayden Thompson
GWS Rovers Chairman



FELLOWSHIPS

Greater Western Sydney Region has five active Scout Fellowships. They are:

- Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship
- Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship
- Hawkesbury Blackhorse Scout Fellowship
- Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship
- Waratah Scout Fellowship

Scout Fellowships have a primary function – to provide support for the Youth Program. They also provide an avenue for community support and social activities. Please see the separate reports from Region Scout Fellowships which detail their activities during the year.

My role as Region commissioner (Scout Fellowships) has two main aims.

1. To represent, liaise and advocate on behalf of Region Scout Fellowships at Region Council
2. To form and lead a new GWS Region Scout Fellowship Council

The formation of a Region Council for Scout Fellowships is my personal aim for 2025. In this regard, over the last 6 months I have attended general meetings of the Fellowships to introduce myself and to better understand what role each of the Fellowships plays in the support of the Youth Program as this should be their primary function. More recently I have attended the annual meetings of all the Region Scout Fellowships to reiterate my role in the Region.

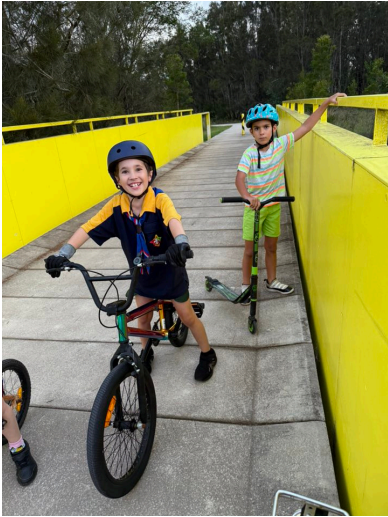
The State Review of Scout Fellowships has been an ongoing saga during 2024 and is continuing to the present. There are 14 recommendations from the review which need to be implemented, changed or dismissed. Until this happens, many Fellowships feel threatened by the lack of definitive information from State on what the final outcomes will be. My answer to this situation is to continue to operate as you have done in the past until the issues surrounding the review have been resolved. I will advise all region Fellowships as soon as I am aware of any further outcomes from the review. In the meantime, no news is good news.

I ask that each of our Region Fellowships regularly advises me as to what future activities they are considering, with a view to sharing opportunities with other Fellowships to support the Youth Program, support community events and participate in social activities.

Peter Tansett

Region Commissioner - Scout Fellowships





PEAK AWARDS



Joey Scout Challenge Award

Adam Alexander
Mikaela Fitzgerald
Joshua Plummer
Harry Miliatis
Penelope Locke
Triston Tsang
Isabelle Williams
Logan Corbett
Zack Simpson
William Cafe
Josephine Burns
Willow Tanner
Jonathan Lou
Elise Liu
Ellie Gu
Norah Jin
Austin Tian
Poppy Baker
Maxwell Huang
Rocky Chen
Oliver Hohmann
David Huang
Jayden Wang
Ethan Bowron
Oliver Kiely
Harry Kiely
Lucy Hale
Lachlan Cole
Ryan Lindsay
Hamish Hendry
Nathan O'Flynn
Benwen Niu
Lyra Miller-Holmes

Grey Wolf Award

Caleb Fong
Mcclane (Mack) Locock
Samuel Hind-Spiteri
Joey Lim
Evan Boon
Angus Houliston
Edwyn Kennedy
Sophie Grevett
Hannah Cowen
Hudson Cowen
Thomas Wilkinson
Liam Kingdom
Declan Mcleod
Melaine Dean
Shiksha Mani
Shreya Mani
Lachy Mcauliffe
Kara Turnbull
Zoe Tanner
Ryan Tanner
Joel Pausey
Darcy Guy
Jack Wilkinson
William Smith
Stevan Harrison
Fitzmalik Drummond
Jessica Edwards
Lucas Vriens
Brooke Hughes
Francis Johnson
Arthur Lee
Lachlan Bruce

PEAK AWARDS

Australian Scout Award

Wan Lee
Denith Wijesinghe
John Justin-Paulraj
Amelia Jones
James Wilkinson
Timothy Hendriks
Andre Briers
Max Theuns
Hayley Tonitto
Hugh Wilson
Grace Kokay
Ameeshi Wesumperuma
Kianna Drummond
Emily Oakey



Queen's Scout Award

Chelsea Kemble
Laura Douglass



King's Scout Award

Brian Deng
Rivaa Thite
Matilda Glanville
Khyati Lingerker
Jack Miller
Renaë Swinkels
Isobel Huthnance
Sarah Zhong
Zoe Wheeler
Aamir Moonim
Kristina Taylor



2024 Adult Recognition Awards



SILVER KANGAROO - for Eminent achievement and exceptional service

PLUMMER, Leonie Briar - Joey Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Joey Unit

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – for Distinguished Service to the Association



TAMSETT, Peter Lawrence - Fellowship Member, Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship

SILVER EMU – for Sustained and Exceptional Service



BARNES, Kenneth Glenn - Group Leader, 1st Grose Vale Scout Group
THOMPSON, Matthew Carl - Deputy Region Commissioner, Greater Western Sydney Region

SILVER KOALA – for Distinguished Service



FRY, Michael John - Region Leader (Activities) , Greater Western Sydney Region
WEST, Timothy Gordon Stenning - Scout Leader, 1st Hawkesbury Scout Unit

SILVER WATTLE AWARD – for Outstanding Service



GROSS, Benjamin James - Region Leader (Activities) , Greater Western Sydney Region
RICHES, Gary Douglas - Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Venturer Unit
WILLIAMS, Michelle Maree - Scout Leader, 1st Greystanes Scout Unit

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD – for Excellent Service



ALAMANGO, Kerrin Elizabeth - Adult Helper, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group
BAKER, Orson Jack - Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Northmead Cub Unit
CRUMP, Joshua William - Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's)
Venturer Unit
DUFFY, Nathan Paul - Honorary Leader (Group), 1st Springwood Scout Group
GALE, Louise Catherine - Group Leader, 2nd Northmead Scout Group
HORNSTRA, Rachel Claire - Adult Helper, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group
POLIS, Jonathan Mark - Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Scout Unit 'Screaming Bush Turkey'
SHAROFF, Jonathan Peter - Trainee Leader (Rover), 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Rover Unit
SHAROFF, Katherine Amy - Adult Helper, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group
SHAW, David Andrew - Region Leader, Greater Western Sydney Region
SHEPHERD, Jean Margaret - Adult Helper, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group
STAPLES, Benjamin Wayne - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Toongabbie Cub Unit
STAPLES, Kasey Lee - Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Toongabbie Joey Unit
VERWOERD, Peter - Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Venturer Unit

2024 Adult Recognition Awards

SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD – For Good Service

BLAIR, Rebecca Jane - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Cub Unit 'Darzee'

BLANCH, Alicia Mae - Adult Helper, 1st Blaxland Scout Group

CHONG, Phui Leng - Group Treasurer, 1st Castle Hill Scout Group

ELLIS, Timothy Christopher - Group Treasurer, 1st Toongabbie Scout Group

FLORIANO, Leanne Gai - Adult Helper, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group

GORROD, Suzanne Louise - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Quakers Hill Doonside Cub Unit

HAEDEN, Lance - Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Venturer Unit

HEGARTY, Thomas Ross - Group Secretary, 1st Castle Hill Scout Group

HENDERSON, Leah Jane - Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Grose Vale Venturer Unit

HUTHNANCE, Ewan Llewellyn - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Springwood Cub Pack
'Tibrogargan'

JARVIS, Krysta - Joey Scout Leader, 1st Hawkesbury Joey Unit

JONES, Nathan John - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Cub Unit 'Pukeena'

KEMPTON, Stacey Simone Judie - Fellowship Member, Hawkesbury Blackhorse Scout Fellowship

LANE, Kylie Margaret - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blaxland Cub Unit 'Keego'

LI, Yi-Chi - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Cub Unit 'Alleena'

LIM, Keith Tse Chi - Adult Helper, 2nd Castle Hill Scout Group

MCKEON, Rebecca Storm - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Kellyville Cub Unit 'Darzee'

PAUL, Svetlana - Adult Helper, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group

PRIEST, Joshua Bradley - Group Trustee, 1st Cambridge Park Scout Group

ROWE, Lawrence James - Group Trustee, 1st Westmead Scout Group

SIRISISAVATH, Tiffany May - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Blackheath Cub Unit

THEUNS, Andrew - Group Trustee, 2nd Castle Hill Scout Group

WHITE, Rebecca - Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Scout Unit

WIJESINGHE, Nirosha Lalanthi - Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Scout Unit 'Barloo'

WIJESINGHE, Udaya - Scout Leader, 1st Carlingford Scout Unit 'Barloo'

WILSON, Belinda Jane - Adult Helper, 1st Castle Hill Scout Group

WOODWARD, Paul - Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st South Penrith Cub Unit 'Panther'



ACTIVITIES

As the new RC I can say this has been a learning experience. A completely different style of Scouting, to being a section leader.

However, the whole point of adventurous activities is to challenge yourself and move beyond your comfort zone. So, I am definitely walking the talk.

Canoeing & Kayaking have continued strongly with numerous workshops being held over the last 12 months. Big thank you to Ben Gross and his team, who have run numerous day workshops, and even overnight paddles, which are always fun.

One area where we do have some real skill is in bushwalking. Tristan Flores has headed up the Region Bush walking team for a number of years now, and is a huge asset to our Region. Tristan is equally at home running simple short day hikes, to highly demanding multi day hikes. Tristan has been mentoring youth members in bushwalking though the higher levels of the Outdoor Adventure Skills program for the past year.

The Science team of John Leahy and Andy Jenkinson continued to provide one of the more unique activities with their "Science" Nights, which have an almost legendary status within our Region. They continue to wow the youth with their imaginative and engaging programs. Thank you also to our radio expert for his efforts over the last 12 months

Archery is a growing activity in GWS. The team of Tracey Hansford and Jenny Liles ran a highly successful indoor archery program for units last year they were booked a minimum of two nights per week for the most of the year.

The Region Rovers have stepped up and have taken the lead in many adventurous activities;

- Zoe Cowan has led the rock team, who provide some excellent opportunities with Rock related activities, particularly in Abseiling.
- Matthew Jefferies stepped up to lead caving in the region in the last year. Offering opportunities to GWS that have not been available for a while.
- Most of the other rock leaders are also Rovers, without them we would have very few qualified guides.

This is tough time for an organization whose mission is to provide the youth members with fun and challenging opportunities to grow through adventure. The ever-tightening rules and regulations imposed by authorities or by insurers, make gaining and keeping qualifications an ongoing effort.

Thank you to all the Leaders and Rovers who have risen to the challenge, without you, there would be no "out" in Scouting.

Quentin Napier retired from scouts at the end of 2024, after many years of service. Which unfortunately leaves us without a Flying Fox guide. Mark Fell retired from his role as RC, leaving me with some kayak sized shoes to fill.

The Region Adventurous Activities Team is only part of the GWS Region Team, and I would like to acknowledge Tony Dent as Region Commissioner, for helping & guiding me in this new role. Also, the rest of the region leaders, who continue to provide support. I must also acknowledge Wendy Dimock, our Region Office Manager, who does so much to assist with the all-important paperwork.

A sincere thank you to all on the Adventurous Activities team, they have been welcoming and have accepted the "new guy" and are educating me in what we do. Also, for their tireless work, their scrupulous attitude to ensuring absolute safety in all that they do, and of course their sense of fun and adventure.

Tim West

Region Commissioner - Adventurous Activities



ADULT TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The past 12 months have been both challenging and rewarding.

Challenging as there were over 100 trainees on my list to encourage to complete to Certificate of Proficiency stage of their training before final phase of woodbadge completion. Over 50 percent of these trainees were more than 12 months in training. A huge thankyou goes to State and Region Staff in checking registrations and marrying previous training to current training.

Then to Group Leaders, Leader in Charge and Mentors a big thankyou in following up and reviewing Trainees to complete modules and attend courses.

It is encouraging to have our trainee list with more than 50 percent less than 12 months in training now Many new trainees are completing to Certificate of Proficiency level in the 12 month set time period. Bravo to Groups who have been able to recruit new leaders to carry on Youth Programs.

Woodbadge presentations have also increased with more to come as more Leaders are taking up the rest of their training by completing Leadership modules, courses and projects to gain their woodbadge. While there are still a number of leaders who need to complete their Project and On the Job it is hoped that they will complete by 28th-29th November to participate in the Gilwell Reunion being planned for the whole State.

One of the biggest challenges is to have people complete their On the Job and then for it to be verified by their Team Leader. Team Leaders are now able to check if they have an outstanding verification by going into the training site. This has only been recently introduced.

Another change is the added 3rd Mandatory Module Code of Conduct. All Mandatory Modules are now completed every 2 years. The Region Commissioner, RCAT&D and Rover Commissioner are sent regularly names of those with expired Module dates. The List for our Region has decreased dramatically and Commissioners celebrate when there is no one on the list. In our busy lives it is easy to put off completions and then forget to do but there are regular reminders sent for completion. It is easy to check expiry dates as the 3 Mandatory Modules are now separate to other modules on the Training site.

In finishing it has been encouraging to see people take up the challenge of being a leader to ensure our youth have the best guidance in developing their scouting Pathways and achieve their Peak Awards
Finally thankyou to Aafke for her continued support in assisting those in the Blue Mountains District.
Congratulations to Duncan Watts on being appointed to RCAT&D in GWS

Ann Pounder

Region Commissioner - Adult Training and Development



2024 WOODBADGE RECIPIENTS

Mitchell Gallagher - 1st Kings Langley
Alasdair McLean - 1st Toongabbie
Nicole Tucker - 1st Erskine Park
Gregory Cockburn - 1st Hazelbrook
Kerica Drummond - 1st Carlingford
Louise Wilkinson - 1st Blaxland
Yi-chi (Anchel) Li - 1st Carlingford
Robert Kerle - 1st Carlingford
Toby Griffin - 1st Blackheath
Thomas Geary Hinchcliffe - 2nd Castle Hill
Devashi Wesumperuma - 1st Ermington





INTERNATIONAL

In 2024, a handful of members from Greater Western Sydney (GWS) Scouts embraced the spirit of international Scouting through experiences across the globe, contributing to global citizenship and sustainable development, while the rest of us prepared for the upcoming international experiences. One of the standout stories of the year was Zoe's three-month stay at the Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) in Switzerland. As a member of the volunteer staff, Zoe immersed herself in the unique culture of the "Permanent Mini Jamboree," working alongside Scouts from around the world. Her time at KISC was filled with adventure, service, and leadership development, all set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Swiss Alps. Zoe's experience not only strengthened her Scouting skills but also deepened her understanding of international cooperation and community living.

Beyond individual adventures, GWS Scouts also contributed to global initiatives consciously and unconsciously. Members engaged in planning and groundwork for projects aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on areas such as climate action, life on land, life under water, gender equality, and quality education. These efforts are part of a broader commitment to making Scouting a force for positive change worldwide, empowering young people to be active global citizens. Activities including Clean Up Australia and Landcare initiatives all have opportunities and linkages to the broader Better World Framework initiatives. Outside of the Region, work has been occurring to resource and relaunch these initiatives with targeted sessions and training.

As Greater Western Sydney Scouts continue to explore the world and contribute to meaningful causes, 2024/25 has been a consolidation year for service, adventure, and global impact. 2025/26 is set to be a big year with the Portugal World Scout Moot, New Zealand Venture and New Zealand Rover Moot all featuring on the calendar.

Emma Watson

Region Commissioner - International

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION


GWS is committed to creating an inclusive environment where all young people, regardless of their background or ability, feel welcomed, valued, and supported. Over the past year, we have strengthened our focus on diversity and inclusion.

During the last 12 months, GWS held a dedicated Diversity and Inclusion Conference aimed at equipping our leaders with knowledge and strategies to better support all members. The event featured guest speakers, including a registered psychologist and a behaviour support specialist, who addressed topics such as Understanding neurodiversity and behaviour support strategies, program ideas to experience disabilities such as vision impairment and practical strategies for inclusive leadership in youth programs.

The conference was well-received, and we look forward to future events to support our Region. We have also introduced a Support Plan designed to assist leaders in managing the needs of members requiring additional support and already Leaders across multiple districts have begun using the Support Plan, with initial feedback indicating it has been successful.

Erica Dilworth

Region Commissioner - Diversity and Inclusion



CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

The 2024 show was called “Off the Record” and it was another great year, due in no small part to the enthusiasm of the whole gang with 148 cast (10% more cast than the year before) delivering 6 performances at the Riverside Theatre in July 2024.

As usual, we achieved outstanding performance standards and great audience reactions, from a huge variety of comedy, dance and musical production numbers that together with highly acclaimed technical achievements, made for a truly entertaining show. Indeed, it was “off the record” a fabulous theatrical success and an enormous credit to the whole gang who delivered that remarkable result.

In the process we entertained just under 3600 people, with three (out of 6) sold out performances, another increase on the year before and heading strongly back towards pre-covid numbers.

But perhaps more notably, about 50% of the cast this year was brand new and never been on stage before. They learnt teamwork and performance skills of course, but more than that, they learnt self confidence and that they could achieve things they never thought they could do; and along the way they found that through enthusiasm and determination, nothing is impossible! And that’s an incredible achievement.

In short, through amazing teamwork, determination, enthusiasm and let’s be honest, through plain hard work, we gave our cast and crew the unique opportunity of being in Cumberland Gang Show and all the joy, fun, learning and future benefits that brings.

The Gang Show Management Team and the Production team were instrumental in delivering all the behind-the-scenes support that make such a huge undertaking possible, and without their hard work and such support the show would not go on.

The extraordinary efforts of the whole gang in 2024 in putting together the “Off the Record” show should also be acknowledged. Their efforts show the resilience and determination that is characteristic of not just Cumberland Gang Show but Scouting & Guiding in general.

We are very much looking forward to the 2025 “Dare to Dream” show with 153 cast as we deliver another brand-new exciting show for our audiences, and another fabulous experience for our cast and crew.

The July 2025 show will be our last show at Parramatta Riverside Theatre for a while as the theatre gets redeveloped. We have however secured a new venue for 2026, and the show will continue on as usual with our next auditions in December 2025.

At the same time, we continue to promote Scouting & Guiding to our wider community, in an environment of fun, learning & personal growth for the entire Cumberland Gang Show.

Peter Lee

Chair – Cumberland Gang Show Management Committee





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

This year the Science Team have visited a dozen different Groups and demonstrated 6 of our programs. For youth we haven't seen in the last few years we usually start with Arcs & Sparks as a general introduction to Magnets and Electrostatics which was the case at six of the sections we visited.

We started with a return to South Penrith Venturers in April to make Pyro Rockets again. The last time none left the ground (except one Leader's). I saw that as a failure on my part, and revised the program to replace small hammers with short hardwood sticks for compacting the fuel. Much better results this time and delighted Venturers.

GWS Jamborrette occurred in June, and this year we shared the hall with 'Memorabilia'.

Andy had centre stage with his **Audio/Video remix** demonstration, which he is totally familiar with, as he teaches it at TAFE. Some Scout Leaders also had a private demonstration in the evening. Karl demonstrated **Laser Engraving** and **3D printed Woggles** for the Scouts, and I showed operation of an Analogue Computer and Induction Heating to waiting Scouts.

Lone Scouts invited us to put on a Science Day during their annual get together, this year at Camp Coutts, Waterfall in July. I reasoned that we would not normally see these scouts, ever, so I would have to fit as much Science activities in as Andy and I could manage. Our program included **Hover, Dry Ice, Make a D cell and Slime**. That seemed to cover most sections, oh.. and of course Pyro Rockets in the evening for the Venturers, which all took off successfully.

JOTA at Glenbrook for Joeys & Cubs was a bit quieter this year (except where the Kits were being made). The Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club provided Radios AND a nail together Buzzer kit for the Cubs who attended on Sunday 20th of October. The kit was paired with a free mobile 'phone program called "Morse Code Reader". It listens to your buzzing through it's microphone and prints the letter you are sending on the screen in real time. The Blue Mountains Fellowship provided several activities outside the hall involving Secret codes, Electrical puzzles and Morse code practice.


2nd Castle Hill asked us to provide science activities for their family Summer camp at Glenfield, in November. I hoped for a sunny day and took **Water Rockets** for Karl to supervise, while I made a Sun Dial with the other 12 youth, then we switched over. The months before I experimented with a couple of designs, modified them for southern hemisphere use, ordered small compasses (sun dials need to be orientated to Solar North and adjusted for location Latitude), personalised the cardboard template for the group and camp, and arranged for the group to bring steel rules and hobby knives for cutting out. The Cubs were helped in cutting and gluing by Leaders and older Scouts. Joeys selected 3 'colour change beads' to put on a safety pin which turned from white to pastel colours in UV light, our **Sunburn Beads** activity.

And yes it was a sunny day, and the Sun Dials kept excellent 'real time' (allowing for the extra hour of Daylight Saving).

Thanks to Karl Humphreys and Andy Jenkinson for their continuing commitment and enthusiasm in explaining and demonstrating the science of nature to our youth, and to Section Leaders who arranged for us to reach as many youth as possible on the same night.

John Leahy

Region Leader (Science & Technology Activity)



ARCHERY

Since July 2024 GWS Archery Team Tracey Hansford & Jen Liles have visited 30 Scout Groups delivering our indoor archery experience to Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers Rovers and Leaders. We have travelled over 800 kms and visited over 600 youth members at their Scout Halls. We have attended State Rally, GWS & South Met Jamboree where we put over 600 Scouts through their paces on the archery range. Jen also attended the 2025 Jamboree to lead the archery base there.

We tie over 100 nocking points on strings every 12 months and maintain 49 bows and around 200 arrows. We have provided training to 10 leaders throughout the Metropolitan area who are now working on their Assistant Guide Qualifications.

We teach young people how to be safe when doing archery and also have some fantastic fun times with the older Cubs and Scouts with our one arrow shoot offs at the end of the night.

Archery is fun for all ages and we expect to continue our journey around Sydney in 2025-2026 year. The indoor archery experience is very affordable and all money raised goes to GWS Region.

Jen & I would like to thank Wendy Dimmock, Region Office Manager for looking after our invoicing and making sure that the bills are paid!

Tracey Hansford

Region Leader (Archery)



DISTRICT REPORTS

BLUE MOUNTAINS

James Robinson and Andrew Davis commenced their roles as Joint District Commissioners in July 2024, dedicating initial months to finalising administrative processes and formal appointments, which now have been confirmed by the State Branch Office.

Completed the Scouting Management course at Baden-Powell Activity Centre in October, notably, the only management course attendees to actually camp outdoors.

Ewan Huthnance accepted the role as District Scout Youth Council Facilitator.

Engagement and Events

- **Group Councils:** First attendance as Joint DCs at 1st Blaxland Group Council in July, and continued to foster positive interactions across the District.
- **District Exchange Nights (DENs):** Enhanced youth section collaboration with activities including exploration of Mount Victoria Cemetery, Blair Athol coal mine visits, bushwalks, ice skating activities, and pioneering at Hampton State Forest.
- **State and National Participation:** Strong representation at State Rally and the 26th Australian Jamboree, with Venturers serving notably as Youth Service Leaders.
- **District Scout Competition Camp:** Held March 2025 at Glenroy Campground, Hartley, with 75 attendees. Springwood secured the District Flag (highest aggregate points in camping, bases, orientation), Blackheath (Platypus Patrol) retained the District Camping Shield, and Blaxland (Wombat Patrol) secured the Judy 'SCSI' Barr Memorial Shield.

Initiatives and New Activities

- **Kalangadoo Rovers:** Hosted District Venturers at their annual Hall Siege. Actively supported district and region-wide events, notably assisting at Sydney Ironman 2024, and District Scout Competition Camp.
- **Blue Mountains Fellowship:** Held a regaining activity in Orange during the Blaxland AJ Shakedown camp. Supported Scouts District Competition Camp by running an activity base.
- **District Scouts Canoeing Evening:** Held at Wentworth Falls Lake, featuring canoeing, ice blocking, swimming, and a BBQ.
- **Penrith Cables Water Park:** Rovers hosted District Venturers, promoting inter-section camaraderie.

Leadership and Skills Development

- Combined District Scouts and Venturers Leadership courses being planned for late 2025.
- Proposed District-wide casual activity shirt to promote District unity.

Facilities and Security

- **Reading Street Hall:** Region declined support for surveillance systems; Group is managing independently. Major site cleanup completed.
- **Hazelbrook:** Exploring security enhancements and improved lighting.
- **Springwood:** Long-standing sewer issue finally resolved after nearly 12 months, and a long-anticipated shed has been erected.
- **Blackheath:** Bathroom renovations completed and a community-accessible defibrillator installed outside the hall.

Leader Recognition and Succession Planning

Initiated Adult Awards and Service Recognition audit to address missing recognitions, emphasizing leader morale and retention. Facilitated leadership transitions including the resignation of Group Leader at 1st Blaxland, initiating succession planning.



DISTRICT REPORTS

BLUE MOUNTAINS

Challenges and Recommendations

- Challenges identified with Scouts registration impacting retention.
- Recommendation to avoid scheduling Region-run courses during major district events.
- Ongoing discussions to simplify payment processes to reduce financial burdens.

Highlights and Achievements

- Springwood secured the District Flag with highest aggregate points.
- Blaxland won the Judy 'SCSI' Barr Memorial Shield.
- Blackheath retained District Camping Shield.
- Springwood's infrastructure improvements (sewer repairs, new shed).
- Blackheath's completed renovations and defibrillator installation.
- Blaxland's successful annual group family camp attended by over 100 participants, fostering strong community spirit.

Future Planning

Jamborette 2025 planning is underway, emphasizing district-wide involvement, Venturer participation, and Fellowship engagement.

April 2024 to April 2025 was highly productive, featuring robust participation, leadership growth, significant facility improvements, and strengthened community engagement, setting a solid foundation for continued success.

James Robinson and Andrew Davis

Joint District Commissioners - Blue Mountains District

PENRITH CITY

A big thank you to all the leaders in District for your continued support and devotion as a volunteer to your Units/Groups and District over the past 12 months, a thank you also goes to our Parent Committees that help with the running of our groups.

Congratulation to all the youth members who have achieved their Peak Awards.

All groups have been very active with units programming both indoors and outdoors activities, with lots of canoeing, camping and hiking, all groups had good attendance at District and Region activities.

Penrith District had 30 youth members and 6 leaders attend AJ2025, I don't know who had the most fun youth or leaders.

Tracey Priest

District Commissioner – Penrith City



The District Commissioner role in Parramatta District was vacant in 2024, however, the district sections continues to provide activities for the sections including:

- Swimming carnival
- Catapult challenge
- Jambowlree
- Joey and cub campfire nights
- Indoor rock climbing
- “ewok” construction camp
- Cub scout camp
- Very wide game

To name a few of the most popular.

There was a huge focus on preparing for Australian Jamboree, with an OAS 1-3 skills camp as well as shakedown camps to get scouts prepared for camping in Maryborough through Jan 2025.

In December, we put our hand up to take on the role of District Commissioner for Parramatta and we have been spending the 1st quarter of 2025, getting around to ARP's, attending District events and representing our District at Region Council. It was a real pleasure to see how each group delivers their ARP and nice to see that all Parramatta District groups are compliant with the regulations and requirements for charitable organisations.

Both Shane and myself have a very open door (email/phone) policy and are here to support and guide our Group and Section Leaders in the District to keep our district in the strong position that it is and to grow that strength through both adult and youth support. We understand the competing demands of day to day life in 2020's and look forward to meeting and knowing our members on a more familiar basis.

Louise Gale & Shane Selwood

Co District Commissioners - Parramatta

BLACKTOWN/HOLROYD

First of all, I would like to say to all those youth members that have achieved their peak awards, congratulations on those milestone moments, I'm sure that your fellow members and especially your parents are as equally proud.

During the last 12 months there have been some members and leaders that have moved on to “greener” pastures, either “retired”, or moved to another District and continued in their scouting life, to them, thank you for your service.

To the leaders and those parents who have taken on the various roles within your respective Groups, again, thank you for continued support in enabling the youth members of this District to continue to enjoy Scouting, especially those who were able to attend the last Jamboree.

I'm sure that over the next 12 months there will be more awards gained by the youth members proving that the Scouting Movement is continuing to move in the right direction. Fun, camaraderie and personal growth.

Question? If you add up how many years of service that you have given and how many years your fellow members of your Group have given, multiply that by the number of hours each month that you have been “scouting”. I wonder what the answer would be?
I think that you would be amazed.

So again, I say “thank you for your time and commitment”

Ron Brown

District Commissioner – Blacktown-Holroyd

FELLOWSHIPS

BLUE MOUNTAINS

The Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship has endeavoured to meet regularly, participate in service activities that support the youth program and continue to enjoy social activities.

We currently have 10 active members, which includes one Associate Member.

Our service activities in 2024/25 period included:

- ANZAC Day march and service at Glenbrook.
- Provision of an activity base and cooking at Region Jamborette at Cataract
- Cooking for leaders and base support at GWSR Jamborette at Cataract
- Cooking for leaders at State Rally at Cataract
- Organise and run a First Aid night for the 1st Grose Vale Scouts
- Provide support for the GWSR Walk-a-thon fundraiser at Kingswood
- Organise and run a JOTA base with BMARC at Glenbrook
- Organise and run a Metrogaine for scouts attending a pre-jamboree camp at Orange
- Run a Halloween program for 1st Springwood Cubs
- Provide leader support at the Venturer Waratah event at Scheyville National Park
- Provide assistance at the GWSR Monopoly Run at Penrith
- Run a base at the Blue Mountains District Scout competition camp at hertley

Our social activities in 2023/24 included:

- Attend a performance of the Cumberland Gang Show at Parramatta
- Tour of Sydney GPO
- Christmas dinner at member's home

Our Fellowship has been regularly represented at the following meetings:

- District Council
- State Scout Fellowship Council

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 Tansett

Chairperson - Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship



FELLOWSHIPS

PINNAROO

This has been another outstanding year for Pinnaroo with many service and social events to keep us busy. Within the community we assisted at Red Shield Appeal and the Children's Festival at Bankstown. We again collected and delivered several bags of groceries for Ronald McDonald House. Members attended Anzac Day March and Service. Christmas saw us at Southern Cross Age Facility distributing gifts we had made and singing Christmas Carols with the assistance of youth members from Westmead.

Fellowship members have assisted at the Governor General's Camp in Canberra, at the Region Walkathon, the Region Awards Presentation, Greystanes Presentation Dinner, 1st Greystanes Cub Unit and given ongoing service to Gang Show.

We again catered the Region ARP and two Palanees. Also, we obtained New Portraits of King Charles for Group Hall and Den and made new curtains for the Rover Den.

It was not all work, we attended Gang Show, toured Rivendell Estate on the foreshores of Sydney Harbour and the Parramatta River and Westmead Trivia Night with interesting questions prepared by the Scouts and Venturers. We also enjoyed a Christmas meal at Wentworthville Leagues Club.

On a sad note, we attended the funeral of a past member Margaret Cheah, and Neville Henderson and Ray Thornley.

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

Patricia Shaw
Chairperson - Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship

HAWKESBURY BLACK HORSE

Blackhorse Fellowship has had consistent membership numbers for the last year, with our membership consisting of primarily active and retired leaders that continue to work with their home groups across the district and on personal projects within scouting. We have monthly meetings alternating between formal business meetings and social nights bimonthly. Social nights in the last year have included Macquarie Arms Hotel, Riverstone RSL and North Richmond Panthers. Our members also attended the annual joint end of year picnic with the leaders from the District.

Highlights of the past year for our members have included:

- AJ2025 service and line leader roles,
- continued work with the GWS Science Team, District and Branch teams,
- recognition for their service and dedication with awards,
- Service on the State Fellowship Council,
- assisting with construction and similar section themed nights across the region, plus
- JOTI and ANZAC Day.

We are looking forward to another prosperous year for our fellowship and our individual members.

Stacey Kempton

Elected Representative - Hawkesbury Blackhorse Scout Fellowship



FELLOWSHIPS

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

There continue to be 14 members of Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship.

Many of our members were involved throughout the rehearsal preparations and performance season of the 2024 Cumberland Gang Show titled Off the Record. The season was a great success with a schedule of six performances including a double cast for the junior girls. The rehearsal season for the 2025 Show, Dare to Dream, is now well underway, again with the support of many of our members. Many are also involved with Group and Regional activities and a number assisted in the catering for the recent GWS Region Diversity and Inclusion Conference.

We held our bimonthly Business Meetings in April, following our AGM, June, August, October and February this year. These were held at 1st/2nd Merrylands Scout Hall.

Our social program was again a success. Several members attended the Anzac Day services at Seven Hills and Merrylands. Following the 2024 season of Cumberland Gang Show in July we held our wind down dinner at the restaurant at Seven Hills RSL Club. In September we had a weekend away enjoying the hospitality of one of our members at Grabben Gullen in the Southern Highlands. In November we finished the year with a luncheon at the Willowdale Hotel at Leppington. We commenced our social Program in March by travelling on the new light rail from Westmead to Carlingford before lunching at the Carlingford Bowling Club.

Congratulations to our members who were recognised for their long contribution to scouting. Evelyn Wilson received her 40 year award and Alex Van Rooy finally received his 50 year award.

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

Special thanks to my fellow members of the Executive 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.

This will be my final report as I am stepping down due to health issues after 19 years as Chairperson.

Lyall Wood AM RFD
Chairperson
Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship





WARATAH

The Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship is a dedicated group of adult scout leaders plus former Scouts and Leaders who actively support the Scouting community by offering their expertise, fostering connections, and assisting with regional and state Scouting activities. The Fellowship is committed to continuing the legacy of Scouting, maintaining relationships, and making valuable contributions to Greater Western Sydney Region Scouting events. Our key goal is to support the adventurous and community-building elements of Scouting, while also offering a social space for former and current Scouts and Leaders to stay involved with Scouting activities, make new friends, and rekindle old connections.

Fellowship Participation:

Fellowship is about offering specific skills to support Scouting activities and a more casual way to maintain social connections and participate in Scouting events. Fellowship members play a vital role in supporting major Scouting activities, whether these are hands-on adventures or less physically demanding roles.

Some key benefits and opportunities Fellowship members enjoy include:

- Continuing to serve Scouts in a meaningful capacity.
- Staying involved with the Scouting community.
- Participating in major Australian and overseas Scouting events.
- Connecting with old friends and making new connections.
- Taking part in a variety of Scouting activities that cater to diverse interests and skills.

Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship at the 2024 Venturer Waratah Event:

In 2024, the Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship continued its tradition of supporting the annual Venturer Waratah event, providing meals for youth participants, registered adult supporters, and event organizers. This event has become a major highlight in the annual GWS Region Venturer calendar, offering participants an opportunity to challenge themselves and engage with the Scouting community in a fun, competitive, and social environment.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Friday, 8th November – Sunday, 10th November 2024
- **Location:** Scheyville National Park, Greater Western Sydney

Event Summary:

Waratah 2024 is a competitive orienteering course set across Scheyville National Park. This event encourages participants to develop teamwork, navigation, and problem-solving skills. Participants will compete in teams, applying Scouting skills to various challenges throughout the course. At night, they will return to camp for a social gathering with music and entertainment to celebrate the day's achievements.

This annual event is designed to engage Venturer Scouts (aged 14-18) and encourage collaboration, leadership, and social interaction. The Waratah event is an excellent opportunity for Fellowship members to stay connected with Scouting and to lend their support to the ongoing success of the event, particularly through logistical and meal provision.

The **GWS Waratah** is a multi-faceted camp that challenges Venturer Scouts to solve complex problems using a wide variety of Scouting skills.



WARATAH

Fellowship Membership & Involvement:

Many members of the Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship are also active participants in other Scouting events, such as the Dragon Skin, Jamborette, and Monopoly scout events. Many Fellowship members are also under age of 30, serving as Venture Scout Leaders. Their participation in these activities enhances the variety of skills and experiences the Fellowship can contribute to various events.

The Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship continually welcomes new members who wish to support Scouting activities and contribute to the success of major events. Joining the Fellowship provides an opportunity to stay engaged with Scouting while also having fun and making a positive impact on the lives of young Scouts.

New Facilities:

In 2025, the Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship began utilizing the **1st and 2nd Blacktown Scout Hall** on Bungarribee Road, Blacktown, as a central meeting location for equipment storage and preparation for events. This new facility will allow for more efficient planning and a greater capacity to support large-scale events like the Waratah event.

Safety & Well-being:

At the Waratah event, maintaining a safe and respectful environment is of paramount importance. We ensure that all participants, both youth and adult members, are protected from any form of abuse. Scouts and Leaders are encouraged to speak up if they feel unsafe or if they notice anything concerning. The safety protocols at the event are designed to support everyone's right to feel comfortable and secure during their involvement.

If participants have concerns, they are encouraged to approach a Leader or Rover at the event or contact the **Youth Protection Team** directly at the NSW State Office. We take all concerns seriously and ensure they are addressed appropriately.

The Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship continues to play a crucial role in supporting the GWS Region Venturer Waratah event and other key activities throughout the year. We are grateful for the dedication and service of our Fellowship members, especially those who support events such as the Waratah, Dragon Skin, Jamborette, and Monopoly. We remain committed to providing opportunities for fellowship, skill-sharing, and maintaining the strong tradition of Scouting in New South Wales.

Thank you to all of our members for their ongoing support. We look forward to another successful year of fellowship, service, and adventure.

Craig Kennedy

Chair, Waratah Activity Scout Fellowship






GONE HOME

WITH DEEP SADNESS, WE SALUTE THE YEARS OF SERVICE GIVEN TO SCOUTS NSW AND THE GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION BY THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY GONE HOME.

**Barry King
Clifford Howard
Janet Denny
Brian Wickham
Neville Henderson OAM
Raymond Thorley
Deidre Skillen**



THANKS TO THE MANY LEADERS AND YOUTH MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE PHOTOGRAPHY IN THIS PUBLICATION.
ANNUAL REPORT DESIGNED BY MELANIE DIMMOCK





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

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