



The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 503 – December 2021



May the
Christmas season fill
your home with joy,
your heart with love
and your life
with laughter.

Wishing you a very
Merry Christmas and
we look forward to
seeing you in 2022.

GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION OFFICE

6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills 2153

BUSINESS HOURS: MONDAY to FRIDAY 9AM to 4.30PM

Phone: 9639 2488 **Email:** gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au

Website: www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

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Called to Higher Service

Neal Raymond John Sullivan

14th December 2021

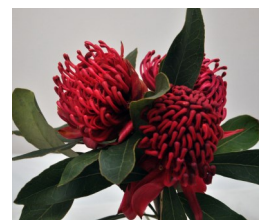
Neal began as a Venturer Leader with 1st Vacluse from 1987 to 1996. He returned to Scouting in 2007 as the Group Chairman of 1st Quakers Hill - Doonside and became the Group Leader from 2009 to 2014.

During this time he completed the GL Wood Badge. His last appointment was with GWS Region as Regional Leader (Activities) until he resigned in 2015

Neal passed away suddenly following a heart attack. His funeral was held at Pinegrove Memorial Park.

Our Deepest Sympathy is extended to his wife Allison and Family.

He will be sadly missed.



**Region Office will be closed from
Thursday 23rd December, 2021 to
Friday 7th January, 2022**

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Wendy Dimmock

GWS Region Office Manager

GWS REGION APPOINTMENTS LIST 22/11/2021 to 6/12/2021

APPOINTMENTS

WALLACE, Kelly	From ADC-DA To RC (JS) - DA	Penrith City District Greater Western Sydney Region
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RESIGNATIONS

DYBALL, Richard	ACSL	1st Winston Hills Cub Pack <i>Boronia</i>
O'KEEFE, James	ASL	1st Winston Hills Scout Troop
DIEGO, Peter	Trainee Ldr (JS)	1st Hawkesbury Joey Mob
DONNELLY, Michelle	Trainee Ldr (G)	1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Scout Group

GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION



Are you ready to have some fun?

**Are you looking forward to an amazing
new year of Scouting?**

We are - and we want to share it with you!

**All Leaders, Rovers, Fellowship Members &
Supporters are invited to join us to Kickstart**

2022

Early next year @ Bundilla Scout Camp

Date to be confirmed

Come and hear what we have planned and share
your ideas so that as a single team, we can deliver
one of the most memorable Scouting years ever!

**Registrations will open on our EMS
once the date has been finalised.**

For more info, please contact Steve on
steve.wallace@nsw.scouts.com.au or 0415 771 752

REGION COMMISSIONER

Hello Everyone,

Well, what a year it has been! Like most of NSW, we have had many highs and quite a few lows as well. What has astounded me is the work that each member of our Region has put in to deliver Scouting and ensure our youth had a great time.

This year...

- Our Age Sections delivered 3 out of 5 major events in the Joey Scout Fun Day, GWS Region Jamborette and most recently the Venturer Waratah Competition. I know that the Rovers and Cubs had well advanced plans to deliver their own events but were stopped by outside factors!
- All our sections delivered several training weekends, including Leadership Courses, Initiative Courses, Youth Helper Courses, Konaras/Palanees and much more. We also saw several adventurous activities including Bushwalks, Abseiling, Sailing and other Rock Activities, despite several challenges in their own areas.
- We delivered the major Region event Scout Summer Fun Days, to not only our own members, but also members of the general community.
- Our Region continued to grow and is now considered to be one of the larger regions in the State.
- We continued to improve our Group and Region management practices, to be more compliant with the ever-increasing Red Tape and also started the long process of restructuring our Region operations to provide more support to our groups and sections.

We are planning a bigger and brighter 2022 and I would personally like to invite each Rover, Leader, Fellowship Member and Supporter to join us at **Kickstart 2022**.

At Kickstart, you will hear from the team; what we want to achieve in 2022 and how we are going to do it. Just as importantly, we want your feedback and involvement, so we can continue to work together in delivering what, in my opinion, remains the best Region in NSW.

I would like to thank our Region Executive, headed by our Region Chairperson Debbie Howlett, my Deputies, Tony, Geoff, Matt, Mel and Steve and our Region Office Manager Wendy, for everything they have done this year.

Now is the time for all of us to have a rest; recharge and celebrate the festive season with those we love the most. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Here's to 2022!

Dave

David Stopps JP

Region Commissioner

David.Stopps@nsw.scouts.com.au

Mobile: 0472 688 766 (04SCOUTS66)



Tracey has been busy lighting up Bundilla for Christmas! Please drive by and enjoy!



Hi Everyone,

First off this month is a reminder. **COVID restrictions remain in place across Greater Western Sydney Region.** We are aware that the NSW Government is planning to ease restrictions this month, but until it has been confirmed by both the NSW and Government and Scouts NSW, we need to make sure we are adhering to the current information available on the Scouts NSW Website, including density limits and maximum number of people in halls.

Unfortunately, while restrictions are getting easier, they are going to be around into the first half of 2022. I would like to thank everyone who has done the right thing and persevered with the limitations these restrictions have placed on our ability to deliver Scouting.

On a different note, as the end of the year approaches, it is time to start the process of getting ready for **ARPs**. As with last year, all Groups, Crews and Fellowships must have their **books and paperwork** (with the exception of your committee forms) **to the Region Office no later than the 1st March 2022.** ARPs can be held during the month of April 2022 and we ask that you provide your ARP date to your District Commissioner no later than the end of January. For Rover Units, the RRC will discuss ARP arrangements with you; however no ARP will take place unless Groups are financial and have submitted their paperwork (including financials and fund-raising certificates).

Many people who know me would know that I have been involved over the years with the Venturer Section **Waratah**, as I was one of the main instigators of the modern-day version of this event. I had the great pleasure this year of watching as a team of Rovers and young Leaders stepped up and took on the challenge of running one of the hardest formats for this event. **Ben MacCormick and his team** did an amazing job, and it was great to see if this is the quality of our young adults, then the organisation is in safe hands. **Congratulations to all the Rovers and Venturers involved in this year's competition.**

You would have seen elsewhere in the Bulletin that GWS Region is planning a special day for all Leaders, Rovers, Supporters and Fellowship Members called **Kickstart 2022.** This is going to be a great day for all of us to get together, get energised and work together to deliver great Scouting next year. The day will include presenters from all aspects of Scouting and we want to hear from you as well! I hope you can join us for this great day.

Finally, from all the Operations & Youth Safety Team (Member Support; District Commissioners; WHS; Property; Youth Safety and myself, please have a peaceful and festive holiday season - take some time out to recharge your batteries and enjoy time with your family, friends and loved ones.

Thanks

Steve

Steve (Turtle) Wallace
Deputy Region Commissioner –
Operations & Youth Safety
steve.wallace@nsw.scouts.com.au



Congratulations to the following Rovers on earning their BP Award



Damon Love

1st Blaxland Rover Crew
Kalangadoo

Rose Mercieca

1st Blaxland Rover Crew
Kalangadoo

BRAVO

ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS 2022

It is that time of the year when we should start nominating someone for a World Scout Day Adult Recognition Award. David has sent out a list of eligible people to GLs and I would ask that you have a look at the list and pick out someone who deserves an award.

Some Conditions...

- A leader or supporter must have been active for at least 3 years to be nominated for an award.
- **Leaders:** Special Service Award 3 years, Meritorious Service Award 6 to 8 years, Silver Wattle 10 to 12 Years, Silver Koala 14 to 16 years, Silver Emu 4 to 5 years after award of Silver Koala and Silver Kangaroo over an extended period in a number of roles at various levels.
- **Supporters:** Special Service Award 3 years; Meritorious Service Award 6 to 8 years; Outstanding Service Award at least 12 years; Distinguished Service Award 18 to 20 years and National President's Award same as Silver Kangaroo.
- A leader or supporter who has received a previous award must have completed a minimum of at least 3 years since that award.
- Nominations for awards Special Service, Meritorious, Outstanding Service and Silver Wattle need only a citation in word format of no more than 1500 characters.
- Nominations for awards Silver Koala, Silver Emu, Distinguished Service, National President's and Silver Kangaroo must have a citation (as in 3 above) and the National Nomination Form <https://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-ARA-Nomination-Form.docx>

All nominations are to be sent to me at neville@greaterwestscouts.com.au as a word document, in case any changes need to be made. If sent as a PDF I will return it, as I am not going to retype any documents this year!

The nominations are due with me by close of business on Monday 24th January 2022.

No late nominations will be accepted.

Yours in Scouting

Neville

Neville Henderson OAM JP
Neville.henderson@nsw.scouts.com.au



JOEY SCOUT REPORT

Hi Everyone,

On behalf of the whole Joey team, I would like to say a big congratulations to the following Joey Scouts who have been awarded the Joey Scout Challenge Award.



David Peberdy
2nd Kings Langley

Melody Fisher
2nd Kings Langley

Sudhiksha Kotha
1st Carlingford

Lachlan Bruce
1st Carlingford

Shengye Wang
1st Carlingford

Alex Chi
1st Carlingford

Fitzmalik Drummond
1st Carlingford

HOP, HOP, HOP

I am so happy to see so many Joeys achieving the peak award after the year we have had, great work by all.

Joey Fun Day applications will be open in mid January so keep an eye out on EMS for more information.

I would also like to thank you all for your hard work and support this year, it's been great to start meeting and getting to know you all better - and I look forward to continue working with everyone in 2022.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, safe holidays and a Happy New Year. I hope to see you all at **Kickstart** on the **29th January 2022!**

Kelly

Kelly Wallace (Kanga)
Region Commissioner Joey Scouts
kelly.wallace@nsw.scouts.com.au





Spotlight On....

END OF YEAR REPORTING



The State Support Office will soon be releasing the official ARP Pack for 2022, but I know it will include the following items:

➤ **P8 - Groups Assets Checklist.**

This is the list of assets your group wishes to ensure. For more information on this, please check the Spotlight article in the October Bulletin. This form can be done on paper or online. Online is the preferred option for Scouts NSW.

➤ **P9 - Overnight Activities/Sleeping in Scout Halls**

If you have scouting activities overnight in your Scout Hall (including “Awake-a-thons”) then this form needs to be submitted annually for approval to sleep overnight in your hall.

➤ **P10 - WHS Scout Hall Inspection Check List**

This is the annual inspection of your property/properties. (You need one for each property). Mark any issues you have with your property and your plans to correct it. You will need to include a copy of your AFSS. Once again, this form is available in paper or online and Scouts prefer the online version.

➤ **AR1 - Annual I&E Statement**

Part of the cashbook, this form captures the information on your group’s finances from last year and this year. It also includes the statement that must be completed by both your Chairperson and Treasurer as well as your Auditor.

➤ **AR2 - Annual Recon**

This form is also part of the cashbook and captures the reconciliation of your Cashbook with your Bank Account.

➤ **AR3 - Fundraising Report**

This form captures the income and expenditure from any fundraising you did this year. It is important, as it helps us meet our reporting requirements to the government departments responsible for Not for Profits.

➤ **Fundraising Certificates –**

A copy of each Fundraising Certificate should accompany your books when submitted to the Region Office.

Please Remember that we can only accept Financial Records that are submitted as part of the AR1, AR2 and AR3 forms. We need to have comparable forms to match requirements for State.

➤ **C2 - Office Bearers / C7 - Rover Office Bearers**

This form can be completed in advance if you know who will form your Group Support Committee/ Fellowship Executive / Rover Unit Executive for the coming year. Otherwise this can be submitted immediately following your ARP.

Region has written a detailed guide of what is required for end of year reporting and are willing to provide it to Group Leaders on request. However we do need to stress that is very comprehensive and weighty and if you are not on top of your group it will overwhelm you.

Support is also available from your District Commissioner, the Region Team or the Deputy Region Commissioner (Operations and Youth Safety).

If you have an idea on a topic for a spotlight on... article, please email :

steve.wallace@nsw.scouts.com.au



2021



Congratulations to you all!

If you are reading this, you have *made it!* You are a survivor of 2021!

In all my years as a Leader in Scouts, I would have to say 2021 has been the toughest one. There are many a camp, or activity, that I have organised, or been involved with, that at the last moment, had to be cancelled because of, usually "*inclement weather!*"....But with a COVID Lockdown and not being able to do anything for basically six months straight....well, that's a bit more *difficult!*"

Now we can all whinge and complain, but let's be a bit more positive!

Back in Pre-COVID times over a 12 month period, the Activities Team would have provided some great adventurous activity experiences to over 2000 participants.

This year alone, we would have been struggling to reach 200; however, that is 200 kids who have got out and experienced rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, bush walking etc. That's nearly 200 youth, who will come away, ever the richer, for their experiences.



It is not a numbers game! It's like the man who throws that one sea shell back into the ocean. Looking at the thousands of sea shells still on the beach, many will say; "*What difference is that going to make?*" But to that one sea shell....*you know the yarn!*

Let us not focus on numbers, as our measure of success. Let's be driven by how we can change young people's lives. How we can build them up to become the leaders and drivers of tomorrow?

So, what will 2022 bring? Well, who really knows? There is certainly a positive vibe that it will be a great year!

Thank you to everyone who has stuck it out this last 12 months. I thank the Activities Team for their continuing dedication. For leaders who never wavered in their desire to get our youth out and active.

Thank You 

There are two more people I would particularly like to acknowledge.

Anne Thompson, who month after month puts our Region Bulletin together, as our Editor. In her spare time, Anne is also the Editor of Gangway, which she does during the Gang Show season!

And **Wendy Dimmock**, our Region Office Manager - always that friendly voice on the phone, who has worked tirelessly throughout the year, dealing with all the extra paperwork and organising refunds for the many activities cancelled due to COVID, as well as her normal duties! Thank you.

BRAVOOO to you both. Very much behind the scenes, but such an integral part of the whole Team.

So, to finish up for the year, may this Christmas be a wonderful time for you all, catching up with families and those nearest and dearest to you. Hopefully we can all enjoy a break and return in 2022 refreshed.

A number of my team, including myself are heading off to Camp Canobolas (Orange), in early January, supporting Golden West Region with their Time Warp Camp. No rest for the wicked, so they say!

Merry Christmas to you all.

Mark Fell (Dingo)
Region Commissioner Activities
Assist. Technical Director - Cumberland Gang Show
Deputy Chair – CGS Management Committee
Mark.Fell@nsw.scouts.com.au



1st/2nd Merrylands Happenings

Despite a tough year of lockdowns and restrictions, we still managed to organise some fun events!

Backyard Group Camp - activities organised by the Venturers & Leaders

Venturer/Joey Night Joey Hike and Investiture

Joey/Cub SES Outing Scout Hike to Maccas

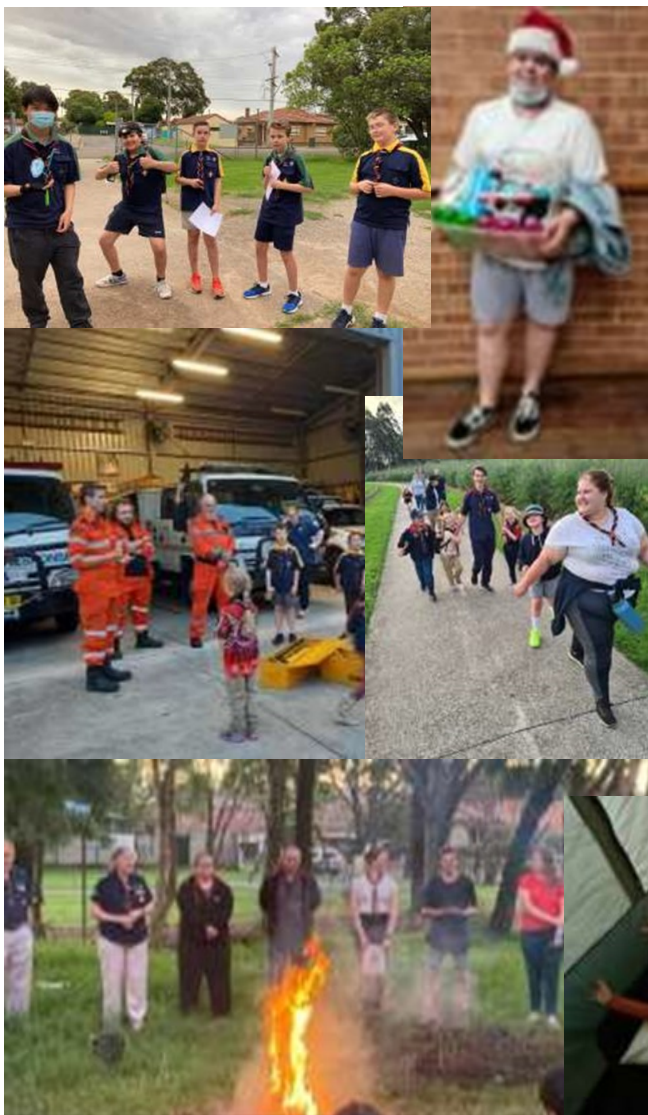
Venturer Halloween

Venturer Drama Night & Christmas Collection for local Women's Shelter

Group Christmas Party

So good to be able to gather together again. The whole group had a fantastic night of fun games and campfire to celebrate the end of 2021 and we are looking forward to a great 2022!

Jeanie Wood GL



CUB SCOUT REPORT

December has rolled around, and life is beginning to resemble the fast pace nature that was pre-COVID. If you know of adults in Scouting, whether they are leaders, helpers or supporters who have made an extra effort and contribution in 2021, don't forget to nominate them for the **2022 Adult Recognition Awards** - everyone deserves to be thanked for their contributions!

2022 will be a big year as we try to reinstate many of the activities, we had to postpone from the last two years. One of the big events to add to all programs now is **Region Cuborette**, which is to be held **March 25-27**. Registrations will open later this week, with details in our event system at: <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/524>

We are planning at least four **Cub Scout Leadership Courses**, or whatever the replacement may look like! Leaders, we will have a number of **Konara/Palanees** occurring throughout the year for you too.

Looking broader, there is an increasing focus on a range of external partnerships that we have initiatives aligned with - **Clean Up Australia Day** on March 7th, **The Last Great First** and the **Sustainable Development Goals**.

Equally, we will be preparing for **Kaleidoscope**, a state-wide event for adults in Scouting, especially those working in the sections, and **The Great SCOUTdoors** will run again.

As we head into the school and festive break, I hope each of you take the opportunity to rest, recuperate and recover. Enjoy the time with your families and friends, and let's make 2022 the best Scouting year ever!

Emma

Emma Watson

Region Commissioner Cub Scouts

emma.watson@nsw.scouts.com.au



Arthur Jenkinson

1st Hawkesbury

Angel Thomas

1st Westmead

Brieana Wood

2nd Kings Langley

Poppy Brown

1st Carlingford

Aleesha Kundi

1st Westmead

Jose Paulraj

1st Carlingford

Leia Panigrahi

1st Westmead

1,2,3 WOOF



Attention all Scouts and Venturer Scouts

If you were born between 13/08/2005 and 01/08/2009 you are eligible to participate in the **25th World Scout Jamboree in Korea**.

Venturer Scouts born prior to 13/08/2005, Rover Scouts and Adult Leaders can join the contingent as part of the service team; either as a member of the International Service Team or as a Leader in the Jamboree Units.

Applications to join the Australian Contingent are now open. For more details please visit:

<https://scouts.com.au/ws2023>

SCOUT REPORT

As the end of the year closes in on us I would like to thank all the Leaders for all their hard work throughout the year. Your commitment to Scouting has been second to none and I know the Scouts appreciate it just as much as I do. So Bravo to you all!!

I would like to also thank my team who make me look good and make my job easy. I could not do this without you!

Don't forget: We have booked Berrima Scout camp for our **Region Unit Council Camp**. The event is open on our EMS: <https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/472> This Camp is open to all PLs and APLs and of course Leaders of GWS. This camp is to kick start the new year with planning and socialising for Unit Councils within Units, Districts and the Region.

Events planned for 2022

- **Region Mindari Camp March 4 - 6**
<https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/458>
- **BSLC April 1 - 3**
<https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/473>
- **Jamborette June 9 - 12**
'The Might of Mythology!'
- **State Rally August 5 - 7** at Cataract Scout Park
- **Advanced Scout Leadership Course**
September 17 - 19
- **BSLC October 28 - 30**
<https://events.greaterwestscouts.com.au/event/474>

On that note I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful and safe New Year and I'll see you next year at our Unit Council camp in January!!

Tracey Stopps

Region Commissioner Scouts

Tracey.Stopps@nsw.scouts.com.au



SCIENCE REPORT

We are slowly getting back into halls to present our programs. This month we were at 1st Balcombe Hts hall for a Magnetic night with their Joeys, followed by a Magnetics & Electrostatic night with the Cubs.

The conclusion of the Joey night is a game with a message. There is a bowl of water containing coloured plastic fish. Each fish has a steel paper clip on its nose and a letter on its side. The Joeys take turns hooking a fish with the magnetic fishing line. Their Leader arranges the coloured fish on the same coloured fish on a card, letter side up. The task is to rearrange the fish to spell out a message.



Here we see the Leader discussing with the Joeys why the fish are telling them that "Joeys don't waste water". I developed this game when I was an assistant Joey Leader and my youngest daughter was a Joey. She is now 30+ years old, and the game has informed numerous Joeys over that time!

A largish Pack of 22 Cubs followed to try out the magnetics and electrostatics demos. It was a humid night (the enemy of static charge), but with a little help from a hot hair dryer, the Wimshurst generator produced loud white sparks; the Electroscope leaves parted and the soda can rolled over the table. Karl and Andy were kept busy explaining 'why it was so' on their tables, so I think the evening gave the Cubs enough new experiences and ideas to help them discover the 'next big thing', when they need to.

John Leahy

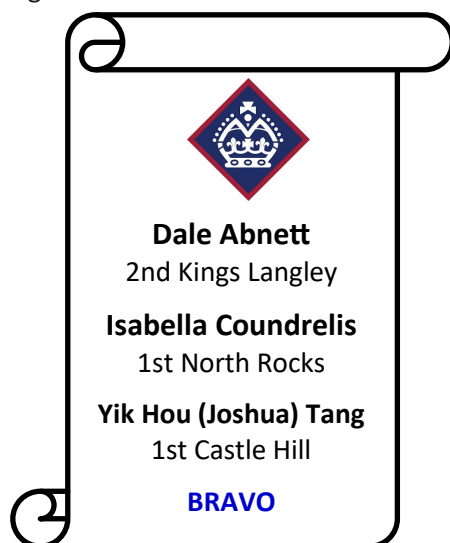
GWS Science Activity Leader

johnscoutleahy@gmail.com



VENTURER REPORT

I would like to congratulate the following Venturers on achieving their Queen's Scout Award.



The end of the year was starting to look ominous with the mountain bike course a complete washout, and even more rain and a new variant of COVID trying to mess up our plans for Waratah. But undeterred, a group of Venturers, Scouts, Rovers and Leaders made the trek out to Gurnang State Forest near Oberon for **Waratah 2021: Operation Dragnet Escape the Forest.**

The format this year was simple: Leave 120 Venturers alone in the forest at midnight Friday night; give them a map and instructions to proceed to the end point about 21 km away, making sure you avoid "hunters" (aka a mix of Rovers and Leaders looking for you); keep your 5 lives and get to the end point 36 hours later! It's a repeat of a popular format from previous years and is a test of bushwalking skills, endurance and teamwork.

Thank you to the **Committee** led by **Camp Chief Benjamin MacCormick** and section leads...

Rosie Rodgers (Activities)
Ryan Kemp (Administration)
Jayden Thompson (Finance)
Alyson Vella (Support and Care)
Natasha Lette (Marketing)
Jack Findlater (Sites and Services)
Violet Manasala (Catering)

The whole team was about 70 strong, too many to acknowledge individually. You may have noticed that these were almost totally made up of Rovers - something we hope becomes a tradition for GWS.

In spite of the buildup, the weather was perfect with very little rain as soon as the event started, and even a day of sun on Sunday! Once again, thank you to everyone who help put it together and of course to the Venturers and Scouts who made the event such a smashing success.

So, who won?

WARATAH AWARD (Overall winners) and RIVER RED GUM AWARD (from GWS Region)

1st place

'Insert Patrol Name Here' - 1st Glossodia

2nd place

'The Queens' - 1st Kellyville

3rd place

'The South Penrith Guys' - 1st South Penrith

MOUNTAIN DEVIL AWARD

(First from out of region)

1st place

'The Weakest Link' - 1st Cherrybrook

2nd place

'The Dawgs' - 1st Cherrybrook

3rd place

'The Bush Bashers' - 1st Sailors Bay

WOLLEMI PINE AWARD (Best activity team)

Hunter Pack 7

On behalf of my team Damon, Matt, Erica Andrew, Iluka and Evan, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We'll be in touch early next year about the program, but keep Easter free for Dragon Skin!

Brian Nelson

Region Commissioner Venturer Scouts

Brian.Nelson@nsw.scouts.com.au



Finger nails still intact!
1st Winston Hills



**Overall Winners
Waratah 2021**

**'Insert Patrol Name Here'
1st Glossodia**



Waratah Rover Contingent



**Hills Combined teams from
Sydney North Region**



TECH STUFF - STORING FILES

As part of our commitment to meet our obligations under the law, we need to adjust how we save information on our computers.

This involves no longer storing information on our own computers and using the O365 platform provided by Scouts NSW.

There are three different options for storing files.

Option 1: One Drive

This is similar to storing information in a place on your computer, except it is in the cloud and is protected by additional securities that the Scouts NSW organisation setup provides. You can setup one drive to link to your computer, but the easiest way to access this is to use your browser.

- Open a browser to portal.office.com and sign in using the same details as your Scouts NSW e-mail account.
- On the far left, click on the blue cloud. This is your one drive space – from here you can create folders, upload documents and even share them with other people. You can also open files on the fly from wherever you are as long as you have an internet connection.

Option 2: SharePoint (Leader and Committee Hubs)

Leader and Committee hubs are a great place to store information that is used across your group. Think programs, meeting minutes etc. These hubs have been setup with security for your group (Separating committee, leaders, LIC etc) and if you have some experience with SharePoint you can also tweak your hub to meet your business. Scouts NSW have some great information on these hubs at <https://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/the-buzz/publications/tech-talk/>

Option 3: Teams

Each Team or Channel you have in Microsoft Teams has a section called Files. This section works a lot like OneDrive above with sharing automatically being granted to everyone who has access to that team or channel. This is a great place to put meeting agendas and minutes, items for discussions and much more.

Remember that we must not store files on our local computers, USBs, or other items that are easily lost or damaged.

Storing our files on O365 protects our data, makes sure we back up information where possible and also removes a need to keep hard files.



THE BULLETIN

The next issue of this newsletter will be in February.

Please ensure all your articles and requests for publishing are
with the Editor by February 10, 2022

Email : anne.thompson@nsw.scouts.com.au

Thank you for all the great articles and photos you have sent
in throughout the year, despite all the challenges you encountered!

**Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a
Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.**

