



Scouts Australia, NSW Greater Western Sydney Region 76th Annual Report April 2022 - March 2023



GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION

Blue Mountains District

1st Blackheath Scout Group
1st Blaxland Scout Group
1st Blaxland Rover Crew "Kalangadoo"
1st Hazelbrook Scout Group
1st Springwood Scout Group

Blacktown District

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

Hawkesbury District

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

Hills District

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

Holroyd District

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

Parramatta District

1st Carlingford Scout Group
1st Ermington Scout Group
1st Murray Farm Scout Group
1st North Rocks Scout Group
1st Parramatta Scout Group
1st Rydalmere Scout Group
1st Winston Hills Scout Group
2nd Northmead Scout Group
Kings Langley Rover Crew
Western Sydney (BLIA) Scout Group

Penrith City District

1st Cambridge Park Scout Group
1st Erskine Park Scout Group
1st South Penrith Scout Group
Nepean Rover Crew

Scout Fellowships

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

Gang Show

Cumberland Gang Show

Thanks to the many Leaders and Youth Members who contributed to the photography in this publication.

Annual Report designed by *Matt Thompson*

Greater Western Sydney Region Team 2022-2023

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

Region Commissioners

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

District Commissioners

DC BLACKTOWN -----	Elena Lombardi
DC BLUE MOUNTAINS -----	Jodie Astley / Paul Roach (Acting)
DC HAWKESBURY -----	Phil Heinrich
DC HILLS -----	Terry Brooke / Jodie Astley
DC HOLROYD -----	Ron Brown
DC PARRAMATTA -----	Tracey Hansford
DC PENRITH CITY -----	Jodie Astley / Tracey Priest

Region Patrons

Susan Templeman MP
Federal Member for Macquarie

Ray Williams MP
State Member for Castle Hill

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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.

MINUTES FROM 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Scout Association of Australia, New South Wales Branch Greater Western Sydney Region 75th Annual Reporting Presentation

Meeting held at 2:30pm in the Peter Waite Room, Bundilla Scout Camp on the 5th June 2022

The Scout Prayer Led by Stephen Wallace, Deputy Region Commissioner

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.

Acknowledgement of Country Tony Dent – Deputy Region Commissioner

Acknowledgement of Safe Space Tony Dent – Deputy Region Commissioner

Acknowledgements of Special Guests - Carolyn Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, Scouts NSW; Neville Tomkins, Chief Commissioner, Scouts NSW; Belinda Francis, Deputy Chief Commissioner (Culture & Resource Support); Greg Barnier, Deputy Chief Commissioner; (Operations); David Hassan, Scouts NSW Board of Directors; Dr Peter Gangemi, Mayor, Hills Shire; Lisa Lake, Mayor, Cumberland City

Apologies - Kerry McGoldrick, Chair, Scouts NSW Board of Directors; David Elliott MP, State Member for Baulkham Hills; Trish Doyle MP, State Member for Blue Mountains; Julia Finn MP, State Member for Granville; Robyn Preston MP, State Member for Hawkesbury; Prue Carr MP, State Member for Londonderry; Tanya Davies MP, State Member for Mulgoa; Geoff Lee MP, State Member for Parramatta; Stuart Ayres MP, State Member for Penrith; Hugh McDermott MP, State Member for Prospect; Kevin Connolly MP, State Member for Riverstone; Mark Taylor MP, State Member for Seven Hills; Donna Davis, Lord Mayor, City of Parramatta; Patrick Connolly, Mayor, City of Hawkesbury; Tony Bleasdale, Mayor, City of Blacktown; Tricia Hitchin, Mayor, City of the Blue Mountains.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion that the minutes of the 74th Annual Reporting Presentation of the Region Council held on Sunday 5th June 2021 and circulated in the Annual Report be adopted:

MOVED: Elena Lombardi (DC Blacktown) **SECONDED:** Kelly Wallace (RC Joey Scouts) **ADOPTED**

2. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Annual Report presented by Mr David Stopps - Region Commissioner

Financial statement as supplied in the annual report and presented by Mr Ross Howlett – Region Treasurer

Motion that the 2022 Annual Report and Financial Statements be adopted:

MOVED: Debbie Howlett, Region Chair **SECONDED:** Melanie Dimmock, Deputy Region Commissioner **ADOPTED**

3. PRESENTATION OF THE ALAN OVERTON AWARD

Winner of 2021 Alan Overton Award – Brian Charles Roberts

Presented by Mr David Stopps, Region Commissioner

Citation read by Mr Matthew Thompson – Deputy Region Commissioner

4. WORDS FROM OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

David Hassan – Representative of the Scouts NSW Board of Directors, spoke on sustainability, membership survey, seeking new members for the board and building a positive culture based on respect.

Peter Gangemi – Mayor of Hills Shire – thanked everyone for their hard work and expressed a desire that GWS Region make full use of being in Sydney’s largest growth area.

Lisa Lake – Mayor of Cumberland City, thanked everyone for the work in helping young people develop civil skills

4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

REGION PRESIDENT Mr Ross Grove

MOVED: Geoff Henderson **SECONDED:** Kelly Wallace **ELECTED**

REGION CHAIR Mrs Debbie Howlett
 REGION TREASURER Mr Ross Howlett
 TRUSTEES The Region Commissioner, Mr Peter Stieme, Mr Craig Kennedy

MOVED: Tony Dent **SECONDED:** Lesley Tamsett **ELECTED**

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. The Region Commissioner | Mr David Stopps |
| b. The Region President | Mr Ross Grove |
| c. The Region Chairperson | Mrs Debbie Howlett |
| d. The Region Vice Chairperson | Vacant |
| e. The Region Treasurer | Mr Ross Howlett |
| f. The Region Secretary | Vacant |
| g. Up to five other Commissioners | Mr Stephen Wallace
Mrs Patricia Shaw
Ms Elena Lombardi
Ms Jodie Astley
Mr Colin Nicholas |
| h. Up to 3 Non-Uniformed Lay Personnel | Mr Craig Kennedy
Mr Glenn Duncan
Mr Michael Majoor |
| i. Up to four others | Mr Lyall Wood
Mrs Lesley Tamsett
Mr Paul Roach
Mr Peter Stieme |
| j. A Representative from the Region Rover Council | Ms Ingrid Watt |

MOVED: Kelly Wallace **SECONDED:** Ken Barnes **ELECTED**

7. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BRANCH COUNCIL

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| a. The Region Commissioner | Mr David Stopps |
| b. The Region President | Mr Ross Grove |
| c. 3 Others | Mrs Debbie Howlett
Mr Craig Kennedy
Mr Peter Stieme |

MOVED: Ron Brown **SECONDED:** Tracy Stopps **ELECTED**

8. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE REGION SUPPORTERS COUNCIL

That the meetings of the Region Executive Council be held on the 3rd Monday of each month except January commencing at 7:30pm. Should that day be a public holiday, the meeting shall be held the following evening.

MOVED: Lesley Tamsett

SECONDED: Matthew Thompson

ADOPTED

10. SPECIAL PRESENTATION – 75TH ANNUAL REPORTING PRESENTATION

75th anniversary supporter’s scarves were presented to Mr Ross Grove, Dr Peter Gangemi, Lisa Lake, Jonay Badenhorst and Carolyn Campbell.

75th Birthday Cake was cut by – Mr David Stopps – Region Commissioner, Mr Brian Roberts, District Adviser, Hills District and Mr Colin Nicholas, Honorary Region Commissioner.

Special Guest, Ms Jonay Badenhorst – Paralympian Snow Boarder & Co-Captain 2018 Australian Paralympian Team was introduced by Mr Geoff Henderson, Deputy Region Commissioner.

Jonay spoke on how her disability had built her resilience and this in turn had changed her perspective on life and grown her confidence.

11. PRESENTATION – BUNDILLA SCOUT CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE – OUR HOME, OUR FUTURE

Mr David Stopps & Mr Geoff Henderson showed how the Region is planning to submit an application to West Invest for upgrade to Buildings at Bundilla.

12. ADDRESS BY Mr Neville Tomkins OAM - Chief Commissioner, Scouts Australia, NSW Branch

Mr Tomkins Thanked everyone on 75years and 3 generations of young people who have grown in the care of leaders in the Region. He challenged the Region to be ambitious to grow in this post pandemic time.

**13. Mr Ross Grove thanked everyone for their attendance.
The meeting closed at 3.45pm.**



REGION FINANCIAL REPORT

The Scout Association of Australia - New South Wales Branch GWS Region Cost of Operation for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	<u>Administration</u>		
	<i>INCOME</i>		
0	Membership Fees	0	0
1,485	Saleable Items Income	880	1,165
0	Activity Fees	0	0
0	Interest - Bank	0	25
0	Fundraising / Donations	50	0
-180	Sundry Income	-2,514	0
1,305	Total Income	-1,583	1,190
	<i>EXPENDITURE</i>		
67,179	Salaries & Oncosts	75,464	72,373
458	Awards,Badges & Scarves	747	314
213	Awards Dinner Expenses	100	0
0	Vehicle Registration	0	0
0	Conference Expenses	0	0
0	Insurance	0	0
0	Meeting Expenses -net	73	0
464	Bank Fees	554	520
379	Postage & courier	310	587
400	Printing & Stationery	1,094	828
0	Promotions & Publicity	0	0
0	Repairs & Maintenance	0	0
0	Cleaning	0	0
-18	Saleable Items Cost	0	0
1,267	Telephone & internet	2,593	1,177
-3,393	Sundry Expense	15,326	9,370
66,948	Total Expense	96,259	85,169
-65,643	Net Administration Expenses	-97,843	-83,979
	Other Region Activities		
-4,571	Development & Promotion	-751	0
-52,499	Camp Bundilla	360	6,186
34,296	Scouting Activities	12,017	25,903
-136	Leader Training	-307	0
-11,289	Property	-9,953	-12,509
-99,842	Net Region Cost of Operation	-96,476	-64,399

REGION COMMISSIONER

What a Year! I think that it is safe to say that after the challenges of the last few years, Scouting in GWS Region is not only alive and well, but is thriving as we continue to deliver the Scouting Program.

All of our sections were able to run amazing events this year from our Cub Scout Section returning to Region Camps with their "Welcome to the Jungle Cuborette", the Scouts with their "Might of Mythology" Jamborette, the "Welcome to the Earth Tribe" Joey Scout Fun Day, the Venturer Scouts with their "Great Escape" and the Rover Scouts with their "Boot Scootin'" Moot. Each of these events showcase the amazing program that is run within our region and makes Scouting the Fun, Inclusive, Challenging, Adventurous organisation that it is. Of course, there were also all the other leadership courses, adventurous activities, Monopoly runs, hikes, JOTA events, regressive dinners and much more that happen throughout the year as well.

After two years absence, the Cumberland Gang Show returned to the stage with a new production called "Next Level" and what a show it was! Congratulations to all the Gang for the hard work and perseverance that they put in to deliver the show – to my mind it was one of the best yet.

I would like to thank the Region Executive led by Debbie Howlett for all the work that they do and support that they provide in the region. There is a mammoth amount of behind the scenes work that happens to keep a Region this size running.

My Region Team, led by Tony Dent, Mel Dimmock, Geoff Henderson, Steve Wallace, Matt Thompson and Mark Fell. Thank you for everything that you do in both supporting me and the scouts of our region. GWS is very lucky to have such a skilled and dedicated leadership team. Wendy Dimmock, our Region Office Manager has once again worked tirelessly to administer the business of the region, whether it be answering phones, dealing with finances, supporting events and much more. The Region could simply not run without Wendy's support.

We have had some changes to the Region Team this year. Tracey Stopps stepped down as Region Commissioner (Scouts) to undertake a brief role at State. Tracey has now returned to us as the Region Commissioner (Major Events). Kelly Wallace stepped down as Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts) late in

2022 and we welcomed back Brian Zarth to this role in Early 2023. Terry Brooke also stepped aside from the District Commissioner of Hills District into a Region Commissioner (Special Projects) role. Thank you to each of the incumbent leaders for the time, passion and dedication you gave your roles and congratulations to the incoming leaders.

As you would now by know, GWS Region has developed a substantial plan to redevelop Bundilla. This plan was developed in response to the WestInvest Grants program. While we were not selected as a grant recipient, it is our plan to continue to seek alternative sources of funding to see this plan to fruition over the coming years. Congratulations do go to several our groups who have received grants this year.



Looking forward to 2023/24... It is going to be an amazing year! As I am writing this, our Joey Scout have just experienced a blast from the past at Joey Fun Day, our Cub Scouts are gearing up for the State

Cuboree in the October Long Weekend, our Venturer Section has started planning their next Challenging Waratah and our Rovers are going from strength to strength with the Region Moot in August following a string of successful inter-unit activities. Our Scout Section is about to deliver the next Jamborette on the June Long Weekend and the Gang Show is planning its 2023 performance - Ignite!

At a region level, we are continuing to work to support our leaders and groups. Whether this be through support, providing region activities through the activities team, helping to manage properties or much more – our key goal is to make sure our groups are supported and able to grow and continue to deliver Scouting!

I am continually excited by all the amazing work done within the Region in delivering the Scouting Program to 3,000 youth members every week and I know that the coming year will continue to showcase our members, our experiences and our amazing organisation.

David Stopps JP
Region Commissioner

REGION CHAIRPERSON



Another exciting Scouting year has passed in GWS in 2022.

Our youth members, leaders and supporters have embraced all that Scouting has to offer and taken it into the wider community. We have conducted Jamborettes, activity days both on land and water, Fun Days, Recognition and Award

ceremonies for both our youth and leaders, Gang Show and all these events have seen encouraging numbers, to indicate to us all that Scouting is back on the agenda again! We are fortunate in this Region to have such committed leaders and supporters to offer numerous adventurous activities to cater for all interests. It is also important to note that we were successful in receiving a significant WestInvest Grant for extensive renovations/rebuild to a hall within the Hawkesbury LGA. This is to provide community facilities beyond just Scouts. This indicates that Scouting is indeed recognised and entwined within our community and we are making our mark within GWS. I am proud to be Chairperson of such a progressive Region; as we move into another exciting year of adventure and programs not just within GWS, but in the broader context of Scouting in NSW.

Recognise this:

“Scouting rises within you and inspires you to put forward your best” Juliette Gordon Low (Founder Girl Scouts – USA)

Debbie Howlett
Region Chairperson



DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS & YOUTH SAFETY



I would like to start my report this year by acknowledging the marvellous work that our formations have and continue to do in not only delivering the Scout Program, but also dealing with the sheer magnitude of administration and activities that they must undertake. Someone

once said to me that a Leader in Charge is essentially running a small business and when you think about it, it is an apt comparison when you factor in property, finance, WHS, HR, training and much more. To all our Group Leaders, Parent Support Committees, Fellowship Chairs, Rover Unit Leaders and anyone else involved in running a Scout Group, on behalf of all the members in our region, I would like to acknowledge your contribution and just as importantly, say thank you.

The District Commissioners continue to work tirelessly to support our formations and have committed to working towards renewing our focus on delivering the best support structure we can for our groups. There have been some changes in the team over the last year. Jodie Astley has transferred from Blue Mountains and Penrith City to the Hills District while Tracey Priest (Penrith City) and Paul Roach (Blue Mountains) have stepped up to act as District Commissioner. Tracey Hansford (Parramatta), Elena Lombardi (Blacktown) and Phil Heinrich (Hawkesbury) have continued to provide support in their roles.

The Region team have been looking to support the Holroyd District moving how best forward and over the past few months, we have been consulting with the groups and trialling combining with Blacktown District. This consultation process is ongoing ahead of a decision in the coming year. I would like to thank Ron Brown for all the work he has done and continues to do as a District Commissioner and look forward to working with him as part of my team, regardless of any decision made about the future of the district.

I would also like to thank the outgoing commissioner for The Hills District, Terry Brooke. At the end of 2022, Terry advised us he would be stepping down as District Commissioner after 6 years in the role. Terry has had a long and distinguished career with Scouts NSW, and he brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to leading what he would proudly proclaim as the largest and fastest growing District in the Region. Terry has always been a driving force for Hills and for the Region

in general. Terry will be remaining with the Region as a Region Commissioner (Special Projects).

Youth Safety remains a crucial part of all operations within Greater Western Sydney Region. I am proud to state that our region now has 27 Youth Safe Advocates who have completed the training with the Office of the Children's Guardian (an increase of 13 on the previous year). These individuals are charged with promoting Youth Safe Practices within the region and ensuring that our youth members have someone who is friendly and approachable in the event of a concern. I would like to thank our Region Commissioner (Member Support) Carol Cope and our Region Leaders (Member Support) Jeanie and Lyall Wood for their work in supporting our members.

Property and WHS have continued in the background, working with groups to manage WHS issues and support property information. Jodie Astley and Elena Lombardi continue to advocate for groups and provide support and guidance in these areas.

Looking forward, 2023/4 will continue to be a year of change for our leaders and groups, and our team will be there to support them every step of the way. We will continue to see the streamlining of processes with the introduction of ScoutHub, as well as some exciting new initiatives to continue to grow and support our groups.

Finally thanks to Dave Stopps for his leadership as well as the rest of the Region Team for their support and guidance over the last year. Thanks to Tony, Mel, Mark, Geoff and Matt for working with (and putting up with) me as well as to Wendy for everything she does from the Region Office. Here is to another great year and I will see you on the Scouting Trail.

Steve Wallace

Deputy Region Commissioner (Operations & Youth Safety)



Wood Badge Recipients April 2022 - March 2023

Nathan Jones - 1st Blaxland
Jade Suthers - 1st Blaxland
John Oakey - 1st Blaxland
Kelly-Anne Dorne - 1st Oakville
Julie McLean - 1st Westmead
Wendy Sheppard - 2nd Baulkham Hills
Michelle Burakowski - 1st Kellyville
Andrew Davis - 1st Blackheath
Danielle Kintominas - 1st Hawkesbury

DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER TRAINING, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

During the last 12 months we have embedded the New Syllabus for Training Leaders into two definite Leader Types.

Youth Program Leader – a front line leader working with the Youth and guiding their Journey in Scouting.



Program Support Leader – a Leader who supports the Leaders and Youth by doing the Jobs that are the Support of the Units and Groups.

We have run a number of the required courses at Bundilla and have been successful with a number of Leadership (Wood Badge) courses being completed for our Leaders.

We had 32 Leaders complete their Training and become appointed Leaders, and we had 9 Wood Badges awarded for Leaders who completed Leadership.

We have also had a good number of our Leaders complete Adventurous Activity Qualifications in a wide range of Activities thus giving the Groups and the Region a good base of Leaders who specialise and can provide Guidance on Adventurous Activities across the whole program.

I have been asked to provide more support for Group Leader and Leaders in Charge in regards to their role in Training and this is now going to be a regular event where a Team Leader, can come and ask questions about their team and where they can see and affect the Training of their team, what needs to be completed and the next step.

It will also give the Team Leaders an opportunity to attend as many times as they need to understand the changes and what the Team Leader can do to help.

I look forward to the next 12 months as we encourage more Leaders to complete their training and be the best Leaders our Youth deserve.

Tony Dent

Deputy Region Commissioner
(Training, Diversity & Inclusion)

DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATIONS



Let me start by saying a big thank you to all our leaders, supporters and families who contribute so much of their spare time to give our youth members many wonderful opportunities and experiences.

It has been a busy year for my team with the following:

- management of social media for the Region facebook page & 'Leaders and Supporters' facebook group
- creation and management of Region O365 teams and switchover of Region email distribution lists
- design of the Region Annual Report
- design & publication of Region monthly newsletter (The Bulletin)
- photography at various events
- assisting with the planning and organising of Region events such as the Region ARP, Region Awards Presentations and a Fundraising event for Tony Dent.

Scouts NSW are in the process of rolling out ScoutHub, our new membership system. We are excited about the potential of this new system to enhance the Scouting experience for both new members, existing members and our volunteers.

I would like to thank:

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

Anne Thompson, Honorary Region Commissioner for managing new membership enquiries and 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.

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

Matt Thompson
Deputy Region Commissioner
(Administration & Communications)

DEPUTY REGION COMMISSIONER YOUTH PROGRAM SUPPORT



What a fabulous year 2022 was!

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

This year I've had the opportunity to attend a variety of meetings and events across the 2022 Scouting calendar; some highlights being Peak Award presentations, Jamborette, Adult Recognition Awards/Gala Dinners, and The Scout of the Year Awards.

Congratulations to all the Youth Members who reached their goals and achieved their Peak Awards in 2022, the calibre of these awards continues to be of a high standard for our members.

I would also like to give a special shout-out to the GWS finalists for The Scout of the Year 2022, Ollie Wicks (Joey Scouts), Varoon Lalithruban (Cub Scouts), Sophie Penisini (Cub Scouts) and Cameron Letta (Rover Scouts) it is always wonderful to see members of our region represented as finalists for such an award.

There have been some movements in the Youth Program team this year, with Kelly Wallace's resignation from the Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts) role. I would like to thank Kelly for her achievements in the role over the past 1.5 years.

With Kelly stepping down from the role, we welcomed back Brian Zarth to the Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts) role, who has already achieved some wonderful things in the Joey Section.

With sad news, I announce that Brian Nelson has put forward his resignation for the Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts) role in July. I would like to thank Brian for all his passion and dedication to the position for the past 6 years.



Thanks goes to the fabulous members of my team who continue to deliver amazing opportunities for the Youth of their sections:

- Brian Zarth – Joey Scouts
- Emma Watson – Cub Scouts
- Brett Nicholas – Scouts
- Brian Nelson – Venturer Scouts
- Dave Bannon – Rover Scouts

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.

In my final words, I would like to thank Dave, Steve, Matt, and Tony who continue to provide me with support and guidance in my role.

Melanie Dimmock

Deputy Region Commissioner (Youth Program Support)

SECTION REPORTS

JOEY SCOUTS

This year I have returned to the role of Region Commissioner Joey Scouts. I must give a massive shout out to Gabie Thompson and Kelly Wallace who have been looking after the role since I left and also to the District/Wandarrah Leaders, Jodie Shaw, Leonie Plummer, Sandra Knox, Michelle Mclean, Nicole Tucker, & Krysta Jarvis. There was simply no handbook on how to handle a region during a pandemic, and subsequent lock down, during a period when almost everything had to happen online. How do you rebuild after that? This was a time when the resilience of all our leaders was tested and I have to say a big thank you to all of you. I am very proud of what all of you have achieved.

During the year “After Lockdown” the Joeys planned a Fun Day at Bundilla in May “Welcome to Earth Tribe”, well that wasn’t to be, the weather had other plans and Bundilla was washed out, so the fun day had to be postponed. It was rescheduled outside 1st South Penrith Scout Hall in September, with just over 100 in attendance. A big thank you to all our loyal supporters in helping to run this event.

The number of Joey Scout Challenge Awards are down over previous years under the old youth program, this



Joey Scout Challenge Award

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

1st Carlingford

Ada Zhong
Emmalyn Liu
Gemma Lin
Kaixin Xia
Max Tseng
Nolan Jin

1st Ermington

Denith Wesumperuma
Jasper Fong
Youssef Alwardani

1st Kellyville

Henry Hill

was to be expected due to lock down and the steady take up of the new Youth Program. It is pleasing to see many still coming through. The new Joey Scout Challenge Award has a great balance from across the new youth program and is a great introduction to the adventure pathways of scouting.

Now a big shout out “BRAVO” to the other youth sections, the region team, and the activities teams. We are all working on one program as one big team. It was a plan, but now it is a reality, some say it was always there, but now it’s Official and the youth members are gradually reaping those rewards.

2022-23 has been a challenging year, but the Joey Scout Section is resilient and up to the challenge. We look forward to an even bigger and better 2023-24.

Brian Zarth “Magpie”

Region Commissioner (Joey Scouts)



CUB SCOUTS

The last twelve months started with recovery from our major camp Cuborette, or more appropriately “Cuborwet”. This was a great example of fun, challenge and adventure and told us all that we needed to know - Scouting is back in action and being outdoors is where we belong!

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

Our adult leaders gathered for Konara/Palane on the first Friday in May, when some of our adult leaders put their bushcraft and navigation skills to the test in a pirate-themed program. I believe there might be a Cub Scout Unit or two that puts the program from the night to test at an upcoming camp! Thank you to Jeff Hook, Carol Cope and Helen Hodge for putting together the activities for the night.

We had Cub Scouts who attended Jamborette in June, well prepared given their experiences two months earlier! Similarly, we hosted a Cub Scout Personal Development/Leadership Course which was well attended and well engaged with and saw Cub Scouts from all Districts in attendance. Congratulations to the attendees on a fabulous day, and well done on braving the cold and the challenges we gave you on the day.

Whilst many enjoyed our school holidays in July, we had a number of Cub Scouts involved in Cumberland Gang Show. I may be a little biased, but that was the best show I have seen in years, and a massive congratulations to all of the cast, crew and teams that reinvigorated and reignited the show.

The State Special Interest Areas Camp was on the final weekend in August. It was great to see many of our Cub Scouts at Glenfield at the Hogwarts-inspired Special Interest Areas Camp, and hopefully that has inspired something for programs or individual achievement opportunities. The same weekend we had Monopoly Race - well done to all who enjoyed that event.

I would also like to thank Michelle and the team for Blacktown Billycart Derby.

Cub Scouts joined the Blue Mountains Radio Team for a half day of activities at Glenbrook on the JOTA JOTI weekend. Well done to all involved.

2022 was a big year, as we navigated unseasonable, and at times unfavourable, wet weather, however the Cub Scout section has finished off in a flurry.

Our final three Cub Scout Personal Development/Leadership Courses for the year ran in October, November and December, with over 70 Cub Scouts from across the Sydney basin joining us at 2nd Northmead and South Penrith. This means we have had over 100 Cub Scouts attend a GWS course in 2022! These courses are great opportunities to see where our Cub Scouts are at, and the committed team who support them on their journeys. The same team has continued to push through in 2023, and we look forward to welcoming more venues and more support as we add to the calendar.

As we adventure through 2023, there are a range of activities and events that will appear on our calendars – the biggest of these is Cuboree 2023! Preparations are well underway, and there are lots of Cub Scout camps happening to ensure we are all prepared for the big event!



Grey Wolf Awards

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

1st Balcombe Heights

Lucy McGinty

1st Blackheath

Summer Sirisisavath

1st Cambridge Park

Hannah Smith

1st Carlingford

Denith Wijesinghe
Dinula Senevirante
Oliver Brown

1st Ermington

Callum Hawken
Gongtuo Ni
Mitchell Fourro-Huggett

1st Greystanes

Brandon Smith

1st Hawkesbury

Emma Kintominas

1st Kellyville

Hunter Gravina
Sean Hill

1st Murray Farm

Cara Turco

1st North Rocks

Alicia Xue
Andy Wu
Phoebe Duan

1st Oakville

Anna Wilkinson
Brodey Shaw

1st Winston Hills

Annabella White
Leo White

2nd Northmead

Asher Ally

We know that activities cannot survive on the same dedicated few to ensure the wheels keep turning. I want to thank the heroes of 2022/23 who have helped pull off a range of events for us, and welcome others to be part of this. Please remember to recognise those around you who you believe are worthy of recognition - everyone deserves to be recognised for their dedication, passion, enthusiasm and engagement, so take a look around you and nominate a member of your Group!

Finally, congratulations to our “Class of 22/23” Grey Wolf Award recipients.

Emma Watson
Region Commissioner (Cub Scouts)



Mohammad Ahmed	2nd Castle Hill
Tanjeeb Amin	1st Westmead
Eric Burakowski	1st Kellyville
Cooper Gravina	1st Kellyville
Rachel Lukin	1st Blaxland
Bethany Nicholas	1st Greystanes
Maxwell Schwalbe	1st Balcombe Heights
Zoe Suthers	1st Blaxland
Emily Symons	1st Dural
Luke Uidam	1st Balcombe Heights

SCOUTS

After a couple of rough years Scouts are back and charging forward. It has taken a little while to get used to face to face activities post COVID, however I have seen an increase in activities over the last twelve months. I can comfortably say we are back doing what we do best.

In June 2022 we had our 44th Jamborette “The Might of Mythology” attended by 1000 participants. What a great weekend it was. Along with the ever-popular adventurous activity bases there were many bases run by our Leaders, Rovers and Venturers for the scouts. In total there were 32 bases the scouts could complete over the weekend. The rain stayed away and judging by the smiles everyone had a great weekend.

Following our GWS Jamborette, in August 2022 we had State Rally – “Don’t Look Back”. State Rally is a competitive camp where scouts work in patrols throughout the weekend as they complete the activity bases. GWS was well represented with a special mention to The Delorians – 2nd Northmead who took out 3rd place overall. A fantastic effort.

Other activities run over the year were Leadership courses and a JOTA/JOTI camp at Bundilla. All these activities have been well received and successful.

I am delighted to report ten scouts achieved their Australian Scout Award over the last 12 months. Achieving the highest award in the scout section is a real achievement and they should be very proud.

I would like to especially thank all our leaders. Our leaders turn up week in, week out running great programs for our scouts. A big thank you to Venturers, Rovers and Activity Team who support our events, particularly Jamborette and Scout Rally, without their support we could not run these events. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank my team of District Leaders for the support and assistance they provide me throughout the year as I have settled into the role. I could not do it without their support.

Yours in Scouting
Brett Nicholas
Region Commissioner (Scouts)



VENTURER SCOUTS

Things are slowly getting back to normal in the Venturer section after several years of disruption. Our core activities have been run successfully and member numbers are starting to recover after a sizable drop. At the end of the year, we had about 210 Venturers registered in the Region.

The reporting year started with the return to Dragon Skin. After a two year break, we saw a return to the southern highlands in Belanglo State Forest. The weather was warm for April and everyone had a great time. Congratulations to all GWS Venturers, with 1st Ermington topping the region in 6th place overall.

In June, around 170 Venturers supported the Scouts' Jamborette at Cataract Scout Activity Centre near Appin. The Venturers ran a range of bases and worked on activities.

July is school holidays and time for Gang Show. Our Venturers are always big supporters and I enjoyed working with the cast and crew to get back on stage and entertain. Congratulations to all involved.

Later in the month, we combined Leadership and Endurance into the one activity in Springwood. The weather was definitely on the cool side and certainly tested everyone involved. But the best part was being able to get back and run courses to help our youth in their program work.

Venturers from GWS also attended State Rally again, reprising a couple of bases from Jamborette. We are getting used to seeing the event organisers casing the bases for units to attend. From my experience, they look after the Venturers very well so it's something to think about in the Venturer programs.

In September, we were saddened by the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We are still waiting on news of the future of the award. In the meantime, we are getting used to the Venturer Scout Peak Award and I am pleased to see more and more Venturers completing the new program.

November was Waratah 2022 - The Great Escape. We made the trek out to Camp Canobolas at Orange. Venturers from The Golden West Region have always been supporters of Waratah and I was very happy to return the favour and run the event in their patch. Waratah is increasingly becoming an event that is

benefitting from a big involvement from the Rovers. This is making a huge difference to the quality of the event and signals a bright future for Waratah. Congratulations to the team from 1st Blaxland who again took out the main award - is that three or four times in a row now? Great effort!

The year was completed with a scavenger hunt called "Look Wide", organised by our youth representatives Breanna and Myles. Starting at Central Station in the city, the event covered the CBD all the way to the Opera House and back. Thanks to all who attended and to Breanna and Myles for their hard work putting the event together.

In February, we elected new representatives with Myles finishing up, Breanna getting re-elected and Mikayla from 1st Blaxland joining the team. I would like to thank my team - Damon Love, Matthew Vella, Andrew Cross and Erica Dilworth for their support last year. The second phase post-Covid is proving to be just as challenging as lockdown. Nonetheless, I see promise in terms of numbers and attendance at activities. Thanks to all the Unit leaders for their ongoing efforts in keeping a good program going for our youth.

Yours in Scouting

Brian Nelson

Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts)



Queen's Scout Award

Matthew Loveridge 2nd Baulkham Hills

Venturer Scout Peak Award

Luke Kahane	1st Balcombe Heights
Thomas Lukin	1st Blaxland
Tegan Edwards	1st Dural
Daniel Oakley	1st Blaxland
Aidan Hart	2nd Baulkham Hills
Myles Waciega	2nd Baulkham Hills
Joe Clasio	2nd Balukham Hills
James Cruickshank	1st Balcombe Heights
Jasmine Rowe	1st Westmead
Sayuni Wijayatunga	1st Balcombe Heights
Jacob Burakowski	1st Kellyville
Valeria Orts	1st Kellyville

ROVERS

The last year has been an eventful and active one for the Rover Scouts of Greater Western Sydney, with an excellent range of activities running across the Region, both at a Unit level, and on a grander scale.

We began the year with our elections and Annual Report Presentation at the end of March 2022. This included the presentation of Wood Badges to seven Rover Scouts from across the Region.

April saw one of our own, Hugh Crawford, step into the role of State Commissioner for Rover Scouts and Chair of the State Rover Council, and Ryan Kemp (Kem) into the role of NSW Delegate to the National Rover Council. We had excellent representation from the Region at Dragon Skin, running an array of activity bases, as well as people participating in key roles on the VOC4 Committee.

May witnessed Kings Langley's first Formal McDonald's dinner since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a terrific night with more than 100 Rover Scouts, Venturer Scouts, some "old" Rovers, and a handful of Leaders in attendance. Blacktown also ran their now annual Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser with great success.

June's major event was Jamborette, with more than 40 Rover Scouts in attendance who ran an extremely popular activity base; provided significant support to the adventurous activities bases; ran (and lost) the annual Rover versus Venturer Scout wide game (breaking our Region Assistant Chair in the process); Rover Scouts attending the event in their roles as section leaders; and generally providing a range of other support to the event over the weekend. Of particular note was the positive feedback received from a couple of the Fellowships (and an "old Cumberland Rover") for assistance received with pack-down at the end of the weekend.

Blacktown Rover Unit and Friends added a new event to the calendar in July, presenting the first Queer Formal, embracing the LGBTQIA+ Diversity present within Scouting. There were more than 40 people in attendance to support this

night, including Rover Scouts who travelled from as far afield as South Coast and Tablelands Region to attend. We look forward to the next one later this year!

Nepean hosted Boot Scootin' Moot at Camp Ku-ring-gai in August, the first GWS Region Moot since 2019. This was a massive event and saw close to 200 Rover Scouts on site on the Saturday night. Through David Stopps, Nepean also received a wonderful note of thanks from the Region Commissioner – Sydney North Region, Kerry Griffin, from the work that was done during the service activity at the moot to clear a significant amount of lantana from the bush around the site.

In October, a sub-committee of the Region Rover Council, under the watchful eye of Tash Lette, organised and put on the first Halloween-themed Fright Night at Bundilla. A night of games, music and movies was enjoyed by all, with the night going well beyond The Witching Hour and into the next morning. For its first time out, the event was very well attended and is looking to grow in 2023.

October also saw some changes within the RRC, as Kem stepped up to take the Chair following the resignation of Ingrid Watt. While this provided some challenges for the Region, it should be noted that Kem executed admirably in this role under remarkable circumstances.

A good number of Rover Scouts from across the Region attended Apple Isle Moot in Tasmania over the New Year period, and all reported that an excellent time was had, albeit under some trying circumstances at times.

The first quarter of 2023 has seen Rover Scouts from across the Region heavily involved in Moot activities around NSW, as well as Unit, Region, and State Rover Council ARPs.



Some other highlights from the year include:

- Baden-Powell Scout Award Presentations for Naomi Davey, Cameron Letta, and Damon Love
- Wood Badge presentation for Dave Bannon
- Adult Recognition Awards for Cameron Letta and Damon Love
- Cameron Letta as a finalist in Scout of the Year Awards
- Cameron Letta elected Vice Chair of the State Rover Council
- Lachlan Fraser elected State Rover Council Treasurer
- Kem accepting the role of Diversity and Inclusion Officer to the National Rover Council
- Kings Langley Rover Scout Unit celebrating 21 years
- The Balls of Steel trophy changing hands twice in the space of a few months having adorned Nepean's Den for a number of years

Despite all the good things, the Region is also entering a period of consolidation and re-building in the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic. A number of Units have suffered some losses in numbers and the RRC is looking to foster co-operation between all the Units across the Region to build these smaller units up again, ensuring a strong Rover Scout section across the Region.

Under the newly elected RRC Executive headed by Andrew MacCormick as Chair and Tash Lette as his assistant, we look forward to a successful 2023/24.

David Bannon
Region Commissioner (Rovers)



2022 ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS



SILVER EMU – for Sustained and Exceptional Service

MCLEAN, Michelle----- District Cub Scout Leader, Blacktown District



SILVER KOALA – for Distinguished Service

COFFILL, Linda----- Scout Leader, 1st Grose Vale Scout Troop



SILVER WATTLE AWARD – for Outstanding Service

ANDERSON, Helen ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Venturer Unit
 BURR, Richard ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Scout Troop
 GIBBS, Michael ----- Scout Leader, 1st Mt Druitt Scout Troop
 HEINRICH, Phil ----- District Commissioner, Hawkesbury District
 HENDERSON, Geoff ----- Deputy Region Commissioner, Greater Western Sydney Region



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD – for Outstanding Service

HOWLETT, Ross----- Honorary Commissioner(Region), Greater Western Sydney Region



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD – for Excellent Service

COBCROFT, Grant ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Cambridge Park Cub Pack ‘Koala’
 DAVIS, Paul ----- Scout Leader, 1st Glossodia Scout Troop
 DILWORTH, Erica ----- District Venturer Scout Leader, Hills District
 LOCKMAN, Adele ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne’s) Venturer Unit
 MASON, Kristine ----- Assistant Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Winston Hills Venturer Unit
 MILLER, Gillian ----- Cub Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Cub Pack
 PRIEST, Matt ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Cambridge Park Scout Troop



SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD – For Good Service

CASSIN, Vanessa ----- Group Trustee, 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Group
 CLEAVER, James ----- Adult Helper, 1st Grose Vale Scout Group
 DILWORTH, Jan ----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group
 DORNE, Kelly-Anne ----- Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Scout Troop
 EADIE, Fiona ----- Supporter, Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group
 GARDNER, Lucinda ----- Group Public Relations Officer, 2nd Castle Hill Scout Group
 HAWKEN, Peter ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Ermington Cub Pack ‘Blaxland’
 LETTA, Cameron ----- Provisional Leader (Joey Scout), 1st South Penrith Joey Mob ‘Jamison’
 LITTLEJOHN, Katie ----- Joey Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Joey Mob
 LOVE, Damon ----- Provisional Leader(Region), Greater Western Sydney Region
 MCLELLAN, Fiona ----- Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Quakers Hill-Doonside Venturer Unit
 PAUSEY, David ----- Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Oakville Cub Pack
 ROWE, Juliet ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Westmead Scout Troop
 SCHILLER, Joachim ----- Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Castle Hill Scout Troop
 ZHANG, Jenny ----- Group Chairman, 1st Castle Hill Scout Group

ACTIVITIES

As I have often said, when I took on the role as Region Commissioner Activities, or Adventurous Activities, as they call it now, my aim was to get young people (and not so young people) out and allow them to experience some great outdoor adventurous skills, that are both challenging, (that's the **WOW FACTOR**) and safe! That view has never changed.

What has also not changed, are the basic skills required to carry out these activities. A compass needle still points north, okay Magnetic North; a pack still goes on your back when bushwalking; and a climbing harness still fits around your waist, although I am hearing noises about full body harness required now on some activities!

What is different is how we measure those skills now, and match up into a qualification. This has certainly created a lot of heart ache. Having to continually prove a skill set on something you have been doing/teaching for the last 20+ years I know is wearing thin with many people.

It has certainly been a challenge at times, and I do commend those who, despite already having high level of ability in a variety of outdoor skills, have made the effort; navigated through the minefield of paperwork; and have been able to come out the other side, with an upgrade in their skill qualification.

For me, it is fairly obvious you share that same desire as myself. To get young people out to share in some great outdoor adventurous activities, and I do thank you for that spirit! *Because if we don't do it, all we will be doing is playing Tiddly- Winks, in a bomb shelter, dressed in Cotton wool!*

Coming out of two years of basic COVID lockdowns, then following on from some fairly significant weather events, has not stop us from getting out, and doing what we do best.

Our rock team lead by Stuart Cowen, Paul Jeffries and Andrew MacCormick have continued to provide some excellent opportunities with Rock related activities, particularly in Abseiling.

There is still some more work to be had with both caving and canyoning, but we are hoping, with some upgrades in qualifications, we can get things happening again soon.

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 a couple of night paddles, which are always great fun.

Our Region Sailing Team is on the hunt for some new budding young sailors. Both Keith Travers and John van den Burg, are both highly skilled in sailing and boating generally, and have put in a huge effort over many years in Scouting. Like all good things, there does come a time when things come to an end, with them both looking at stepping down, to allow for the next generation to come through. On behalf of the whole Region, I do extend to them both, a sincere thanks for their contribution and skills, in not just Sailing, but canoeing as well. Of course, Keith also held the position as our Region Commissioner for Activities, prior to myself coming on board.

Tristan Flores, who heads up our bushwalking, is another one who has had to battle with adverse weather conditions, with bushwalking. It hasn't just been those "wet days" that has been the issue. There has been some significant damage to many tracks across the Blue Mountains and beyond, with land slips and wash aways, which has closed many tracks, some of which may be years away from reopening, with massive costs to rebuild.

Despite the challenges, Tristan has continued to ensure opportunity to for all - from a simple day walk, to high level multiday hikes. Thank you, Tristan!

One not so affected by the weather is our Science Team lead by John Leahy, Andrew Jenkinson and our Radio man, Karl Humphries. Again they continue to enthral all with their amazing science and physics skills, and I thank them for their continued contributions. I guess this is one team that has not been affected so much by ***"are you qualified?"***

A couple of people I would also like to acknowledge on my team. Mick Fry who has come across to the Activities Team to help people get through the qualification process. Mick is also a State Assessor, so a great asset to have. Also, a big thank you to Quentin Napier for his rigging skills particularly with the Flying Fox. Over the last few years, the Fox has gone through some significant upgrades to satisfy acceptable industry standards, and Quentin has been a big contributor, with his rigging expertise, particularly at State level, and of course the "Fox" at the Jamborette would not be right without "Croc" hanging off the top of the tower!

The Region Adventurous Activities Team is only part of the GWS Region Team, and I would like to acknowledge Dave Stopps, as Region Commissioner, for his continued support to myself and the team. I must also acknowledge Wendy Dimmock, our Region Office Manager, who does so much with that all important paperwork, which seems to increase year by year.

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

Big BRAVOOO to you all!

Mark Fell (Dingo)

Region Commissioner (Adventurous Activities)
Deputy Chair, Asst. Technical Director & Stage Manager
(Cumberland Gang Show)

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW



In 2022 Cumberland Gang Show took a step back towards normality after two years of disruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Production Team took the very best bits of the 2021 show (which we were unable to perform) and added some stunning new material, to make a 2022 show called “Next Level” that was exciting and fresh with some fabulous new choreography, sketches and songs.

We auditioned a new cast, taking all those from 2021 who had the fortitude to stand up and try one more time (the most determined 82 of the 152 cast from 2021) and we added another 18 keen cast members to assemble the “brave one hundred” who were prepared to face the challenges of Covid-19 and dare to attempt the “Next Level”.

We gave it everything we had. With one gang united, we rehearsed our socks off, learnt the most amazing multi-part harmonies, mastered the most difficult routines, and bent over backwards to get as many people as we could to come along and see the result. The crew was not daunted either. We have never seen a group of individuals so focused and determined to excel as the gang of 2022.

The rest is history. We opened at Riverside to huge applause, the audience was “wowed”, and the cast & crew were at first relieved, then elated as we proved that yes indeed the “Gang was Back”! It was the sweetest of all successes, the culmination of enormous efforts – it was the best feeling, and yes it was the first show for three very long years. We proved something important – something that we at Cumberland Gang Show have always said – that if you’re one of the Cumberland Gang then “You Can do Anything!”

In the process, we not only delivered a great show, we brought everyone in the cast and crew along on a journey of discovering their talents, nurturing their self-confidence, and inspiring them to excellence. The power of that experience is incredible.

Gang Show Management was instrumental in delivering all the behind-the-scenes support that make such a huge undertaking possible. The Production team was determined and focused to deliver the 2022 Next Level show and it all came together on opening night.

Unfortunately, with a cast of 100, being 40% lower than normal, ticket sales were also much lower than normal, but costs remained stubbornly high, so the show made a modest loss for the year. However, we see 2022 as a stepping-stone back towards more normal numbers in 2023.

I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of the whole gang in 2022 to put together the “Next Level” show. Their efforts, in the face of unprecedented challenges, show the resilience and determination that is characteristic of not just Gang Show, but Scouting & Guiding in general. I am extremely proud of the way the gang responded to the situation and would like to recognise the Management Committee and the Production Team for all their hard work.

We are very much looking forward to Gang Show in 2023 with cast numbers and hopefully audiences back to normal.

Peter Lee

Management Committee Chair



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

This year the Science Team has continued to support GWS groups by supplying Science nights as requested. ALSO we extended our reach to Hume Region in February'23, AND devised a new program around Dry Ice.

The Science base at Jamborette'22 included Karl demonstrating melting and bending of metals, and **Chain Mail** making for CosPlay costumes. Andy explained the wonders of **Dry Ice**, which is solid Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), including its detection with (builders) Lime Water, its extinguishing of fire (except burning Magnesium), and its liquid phase when the pressure is increased. The Scouts took away a sample of white powder mixture which produces CO₂ as a fizz in the mouth when eaten (sherbet).

I mounted some spiders, insects, small electronic components and silicon chips, so the Scouts could view them though a large zoom Binocular **Microscope**, a small x60 pocket 'scope, and a mobile phone mounted clip-on macroscope.

Tesla's quest to transmit free energy through the atmosphere was reproduced by a pair of small resonant air coupled coils, simulating **Tesla Coils**. When the transmitter was turned on, energy was induced in the adjacent coil and the LED lit. A neon bulb placed near the transmitter coil showed that a quite high (>90V ac) electric field was produced by the 4.5V battery.

Karl and Andy made **Pyro Rockets** with eight Ermington Venturers, a **Light** night with 2nd Baulkham Hills Cubs and Scouts, and braved the elements to host a



Water and Air rocket night for 2nd Kings Langley Cubs in September. It was very gusty...fortunately, the large sport field across the creek from the scout hall provided plenty of room. They concluded in darkness with rockets illuminated by glowsticks.

Joey Fun day in September was sunny so I setup **Water Rockets**. For an Activity Leader I wasn't feeling particularly active, but helpfully two South Penrith Venturers ran the base for me. They did an excellent job of involving the Joeys to fuel the rocket, attach it to the launcher and assisted with the pumping on the tyre pump as the pressure neared 200kPa.

The Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club put on terrific JOTA Radio and technology bases for Joeys and Cubs at their Radio Shack (Glenbrook hall) on Sunday 16th October. Activities included four **Radios**, **Phonetic Alphabet** practice, **Morse Code** keys and **Make a LED light**. I brought my **Connection Detective** folder because I knew that Cubs enjoyed buzzing for the shorted buttons. I also helped the Cubs make a **Code Wheel** and practice encoding their name.

1st Erskine Park invited us to present a **Hover** night for their Joeys and Cubs in November. I enlisted the help of their Leaders and parents to make the night run smoothly. Paul Hennessy from Bathurst was visiting his former Group and it was good to catch up with him.

We were invited to a Hume Region camp at Berrima in February of this year. Their main program request was for **Dry Ice** experiments, which Andy demonstrated on the Sunday. For Saturday I launched **Water Rockets**, because there was enough area and always popular, **Laser Reflect** for the Cubs & Scouts, and **Microwave Oven** experiments for the Scouts & Venturers. Karl bought a selection of Army portable Radios and a variety of aerials including a **Satellite Tracking antenna** which drew interest from the Scouts, who could see a simulation of its map position on the computer while watching the aerial move to track it.

Thanks to Karl Humphreys and Andy Jenkinson for taking on most of the science night load this year while I was 'Leahy'd up' and for their continuing commitment and enthusiasm in explaining and demonstrating the science of nature to our youth; to Section Leaders who arranged for us to reach as many youth as possible on the same night, and to the Leaders and Amateur Radio operators supporting JOTA in the GWS Region.

John Leahy
Region Leader (Science & Technology)



their concerns are raised and handled in accordance with Branch policies.

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

1. Becoming the ‘on the ground’ face of Scouts NSW Child Safety initiatives – particularly at large events;
2. Understanding and explaining Scouts NSW Child Protection policies and procedures;
3. Promoting Youth Safe Messaging throughout the organisation;
4. Achieving a high level of understanding of prevention and intervention of child abuse strategies;
5. Encouraging and enabling incident reporting.

To ensure that your YSA members have a clear understanding of their roles we have support processes in place who are responsible to the Child Protection Team and the Child Protection Officer.

Pre-appointment for these roles required e-learning from the Office of the Children’s Guardian and face-to-face training from the Child Protection Officer. Why not nominate yourself and join this dedicated team of supporters.

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

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

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

Our State Child Protection Hotline can also be contacted in emergencies on: 02 97359000 or ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au

Carol Cope
Region Commissioner (Member Support)
Youth Safe Advocate

MEMBER SUPPORT

Our Greater Western Sydney Region Member Support Team have continued to help Youths, Leaders and Parents through difficult circumstances over the last twelve months.

Our roles include educating our frontline leaders in how to be more supportive if and when the need arises in their Group, District, Region or Branch.

We are the source of information and support, but we do not replace professional counsel.

More details about our Child Health and Safety measurers can be found in:

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

Safeguarding Commitment Statement

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

Our Youth Safe Advocates (YSA) also continue to support all members of the Association. Their assistance is available at major events as another means of ensuring the safety and protection of all our members and that

DISTRICT REPORTS

BLACKTOWN

This year has been a challenge getting back to normal and back outside, camping, hiking and having fun.

Blacktown has been joined by Holroyd District in the last few months and we look forward to being a bigger and better district with our new groups on board.

We have a number of Peak Award and Wood Badge presentations coming soon and this is exciting to see our youth and leaders achieving these awards.

Our groups are getting record numbers of enquiries with one new group opening a new section night to be able to accommodate the growing number of scouts. BRAVOOO to Westmead, it's great to see.

It has been a challenging year, but I feel that our district will do great things.

Elena Lombardi
District Commissioner

BLUE MOUNTAINS

Over the past year there has been an overall increase in youth numbers, new Section Leaders and one Group Leader. (From the number of enquiries we are having for membership this year it looks to be a promising year).

All Groups have been active, holding a wide range of Group activities as well as participating in District/Region activities.

1st Hazelbrook received a small grant which helped them to make some updates to their hall, including a ramp for easier access in some circumstances, fencing and new bathrooms.

In October the Group celebrated its Centenary with a sausage sizzle etc with over 140 people attending. On October 16th, centenary day, they opened a time capsule which had been buried 40yrs ago – they plan to replace one to be opened in the future.

1st Blackheath won \$30,000 via 2022 Community Building Partnership, to upgrade toilet/shower facilities. They are considering a major rebuild/renovation project.

Personally, I thank our Leaders for their dedication to the youth of the Mountains and the parents that support them.

Paul Roach
District Commissioner (Acting)

HILLS

The past year has seen a shift from covid affected programs from home to actively engaging in outdoor activity and community events once again. My appreciation goes to all Leaders and Youth that have endured such trying times during the past years with covid and severe weather events. Despite these impacts the Hills District maintained very healthy membership and active engagement across a variety of mediums. I have been very proud of the Hills Leaders, Youth and parent Committees and their tenacity to deliver profound programs.

Membership continues to increase, year on year, with most Groups implementing waiting lists. Leader growth continued however there is still insufficient adults to enable entry to the enthusiastically waiting youth members. Yet again the District is still awaiting support from a State level to address this on-going shortage.

The year saw on-going active engagement with the Community and growing parent support. The District & Groups continue to receive encouragement from key supporters of Scouting that have provided financial and in kind assistance to provide appropriate equipment and facilities. Their assistance has been critical to the success of the program delivery within each of the Groups. This support enables the Leaders to focus on the youth and program.

As the District team has visited the many and varied activities and events it is very pleasing to see the active outdoor program that has been implemented and how our youth have engaged and learnt new skills and achieving significant peak award scheme milestones.

A number of Adult Members in the District, were honoured in the annual Adult Recognition Awards for good service. Congratulations and BRAVOOO to all.

As the residential areas within the Hills District expands at a significant rate it is expected the year ahead is forecast to see further growth with youth membership enquiries. It is therefore more important to provide increased support from Region, State & National to Leader growth or these youth members will not be

realised and benefit from the Scouting methodology. A couple of Groups are pushing well over 100 members and two are competing to be the first in the District to crack 150 members.

I would like to personally thank the adult members for their dedicated & selfless service to the youth in the District. The on-going constraints and significant changes to program and adventurous activities have not made it easy and many are still taking on more than they should, providing significant hours to Scouting each week in many different roles. Some of our Leaders are pushed to the limit and some have already left as a result. More Leaders will assist to spread this load.

This is my last report as District Commissioner for the Hills, as I have stepped aside in February to take another direction within Scouting in a Region role. Jodie Astley has been appointed to the role and is looking forward to working with the Leadership team. To the District Leaders that support myself & the Sections, thank you. To the parent helpers & Group Committees that support the Leaders, thank you. To the youth members for continually striving to do their best and actively participate, thank you. Everyone who continues to give up more than their fair share of '2 hours per week', thank you. Together we are still making such a difference to many young minds and building resilient character within them, for which we all should be very proud. Thank you.

Terry Brooke

District Commissioner (Outgoing)

Jodie Astley

District Commissioner (Incoming)

HOLROYD

Congratulations to all those youth members who achieved excellence in all Sections of their badge work during the past twelve months.

To the Leaders of this District, again, please accept my thanks for your continued good work that you have put in to maintain the level of scouting being achieved in this District. It certainly shows when looking at the different Sections and what has been achieved.

At the Holroyd Gardens Australia Day event, Holroyd District held a Scouts promotion stall where we had a good number of enquiries that led to some of those who were interested later joining a local Group.

Holroyd District are currently taking part in a joint venture with Blacktown District, this is proving to be beneficial in the exchange of ideas, both in the interaction between all Sections and Leaders.

Ron Brown

District Commissioner

PENRITH CITY

A big thank you to all the Leaders in the district for your continued support and devotion as volunteers to your sections/Groups and District over the past 12 months.

All groups are going well and continuing to grow and have adopted the New Youth Program well.

Over the last 12 months our sections have included a lot more outside of hall activities in their programs and the youth are all eager to participate more.

We held a District Sports and Fun day in November and hope to keep this going each year.

Penrith City and Hawkesbury District Joeys held a combined District Joey camp at Berrima the last weekend of March and all had a fun time with Mark Fell from the Region Activities team learning how to canoe.

The District Scouts held a raft building day on the Nepean River, a fun day was had by all the Scouts and Leaders.

A good number of youth from each group attended Dragon Skin, Cuborette, Jamborette and State Rally and District camps.

Tracey Priest

District Commissioner



Reports not received from Hawkesbury or Parramatta Districts.

SCOUT FELLOWSHIPS

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

There are now 15 members of Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship. We were saddened by the death of our Honorary member Bob Matthews during March. Many of our members attended his funeral at Blacktown, reflecting on many of his contributions to Scouting, to Cumberland Gang Show and to the Fellowship.

Many of our members were involved in preparations for the 2022 season of Cumberland Gang Show titled Next Level. The season was a great success following Covid with a schedule of five performances. The rehearsal season for the 2023 Show, Ignite, is now well underway. This year there will be six performances with the return of a double cast for the junior girls.

Our social program recovered from the Covid lockdowns of earlier years. Following our AGM in April, some members attended the Anzac Service at Club Merrylands and others attended at Seven Hills. In May our barefoot bowling at Toongabbie was washed out but this did not prevent an enjoyable dinner. Following the 2022 season of Cumberland Gang Show we held our wind down dinner at Wentworthville Leagues Club.

In September we returned to our weekend away. We visited Crookwell and the Kingsdale winery at Goulburn before returning to Grabben Gullen where we enjoyed the hospitality of Glennys and Chris Gillard for a very enjoyable evening and overnight stay of fellowship. We finished the year with an end of year wine and cheese night in November. This year commenced with a fine weather evening of barefoot bowling at Club Merrylands in March.

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

Congratulations to our member Adele Lockman who was awarded a Meritorious Service Award in the 2022 Adult Recognition Awards.

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

Special thanks to my fellow members of the Executive and Leadership team: Secretary Jeanie Wood, Treasurer Evelyn Wilson, Deputy Chairperson Marion Van Rooy, Activities Co-ordinator Brendan Richards and Publicity Officer Adele Lockman. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and have certainly ensured the success of the past twelve months. I look forward to our Fellowship enjoying another exciting year in 2023-2024.

Lyall Wood AM RFD
Chairperson - Cumberland Gang Show Scout Fellowship



BLUE MOUNTAINS SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

The Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship has endeavoured to meet regularly, participate in service activities and continue to enjoy social activities in the post COVID-19 period.

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

Our service activities in 2022/23 included;

- Glenbrook ANZAC day march and service.
- Region Jamborette at cataract
- Monopoly Run out of 1st Westmead hall
- 1st Hazelbrook Group centenary
- Clean Up Australia at Glenbrook
- Blue Mountains District Competition Camp

Our social activities in 2022/23 included;

- Visit to Mayfield Garden near Oberon
- Dinner at Blaxland Thai
- Dinner at Okami Japanese restaurant, Penrith
- Christmas dinner at member's home

Our Fellowship has been regularly represented at the following meetings;

- District Council
- State Scout Fellowship Council
- Region Executive

My thanks go to all our members for their willingness to make our service and social activities successful and enjoyable. We are all looking forward to more fun, fellowship and service during the coming year.

Peter Tamssett

Chairperson - Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship

PINNAROO SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

This year has seen us slowly returning to normal activities, with meetings held both online and face to face.

We started the year in our usual busy manner with members assisting at Parramatta Scouts, while other members were involved with Gang Show in various roles.

We prepared afternoon tea for 2 Region Award Ceremonies as well as the Region ARP. Members attended the Region Jamborette and assisted at the International Base.

Members also assisted at the Children's Festival in the City.

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

One of our members was guest speaker at Guildford Masonic Lodge where he spoke about Scouting.

We were asked by Southern Cross Nursing Home if we may be able to make gifts for the men for Father's Day, we did this and they were accompanied by cards made by Toongabbie Cubs. We were once again able to visit the Nursing Home at Christmas and sing carols with the residents; they were excited to have us back. We also gave each one a gift we had made.

On the social front we attended Vivid at Sydney Zoo and a performance of Gang Show, although the weather was against all our picnic plans.

We look forward to a year filled with lots to do and challenge us all.

Patricia Shaw

Chairperson - Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship



THE SCOUT PRAYER

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

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