



SCOUTS NEW SOUTH WALES
SYDNEY NORTH REGION

COMPASS

www.sydneynorthscouts.com

December 2020—Vol.2 Issue 20



Wonderstruck



Wonderstruck you say? Yes, HORNSBY GANG SHOW is back, ready to bring you our current show "Wonderstruck" in June/July 2021. With an extra year to rehearse and develop the show it will be stunning

But wait! We have more than just a new show !

We have a new theatre, Pioneer Theatre, right in the heart of Castle Hill. It will be so easy to get there by the Metro or you can take advantage of heaps of parking across the road.

Mark the dates in your 2021 calendar to see the show as a group activity.

Email: marketingandpromotions@gangshow.com

so we can send you advanced information and keep you up to date about tickets and other fun stuff.

Follow us on social media as we create a spectacular season in 2021.



HORNSBY GANG SHOW 2021

25,26,27 & 30 JUNE

2 & 3 JULY



Greetings from the Region Commissioner



I want to wish all our members, Leaders, and supporters a very Merry Christmas and safe and happy holiday season. I also want to offer my thanks for all your hard work and dedication to Scouting, particularly in this past challenging year. We look forward to your continued support in 2021.

Kerry Griffin

Region Commissioner

Sydney North Region



Katelyn—NSW Scout of the Year



Congratulations to Katelyn Cleary from 1st Asquith Scout Group who was crowned NSW Scout of the Year on 7th November. The Scout of the Year award is an award to recognise a person or project that has contributed exceptionally to Scouting in the wider community. Katelyn was nominated for this award because of the leadership project she undertook in order to complete her ASM. Earlier this year, Katelyn took into account how COVID-19 was starting to intensify globally and become a major concern.

Katelyn decided to focus her project on bringing some joy to our frontline workers, the heroes of this pandemic at her local hospital. Aware of how well received scout badges are within the scouting community, Katelyn decided to design a badge with a COVID-19 theme to sell and raise money. The support from Scouts around the world for Katelyn's project has been phenomenal. Katelyn sold close to 800 badges and has raised over \$2,400 for her project. To date, Katelyn has put forward an idea with the hospital to create a mosaic print of all the healthcare workers at the hospital and to have this image printed and framed and displayed in a prominent area of the hospital. At the time of writing this, Katelyn's idea has been approved. Katelyn and her father will now work closely with the hospital to get this project complete. Watch this space!

1ST ROSELEA VENTURERS - BACK AGAIN

By Peter McBurney

On Wednesday 2nd December the First 5 Venturers in at least 28 years were invested in the newly (re-registered) Venturer Unit at 1st Roselea Scout Group.

Last year 5 of our graduating 14 year old Scouts came to me as Group Leader, determined to start a new unit. When I said, "If this happens,", they said, "No! WHEN this happens!"

And now it HAS happened!



This Unit is determined to be a very energetic one, focussed on adventurous outdoor activities.

Thanks so much to founding Leaders Bibbles Nick Macfarlane and Row Row (formerly known as MTB) Rohan Primrose. And also to North Rocks Scout Leader Chloe Drinkwater who's been attending regularly to give essential extra help.

Thanks also to our Joey Leader, Cub Leader and Scout Leader (Margaret Cook, Candy Chen and Louisa Vorreiter) who assisted with the ceremony.

Two more of our Venturers were unable to make it this evening. We still have vacancies!

If camping in tents is hard, camp in a cave!

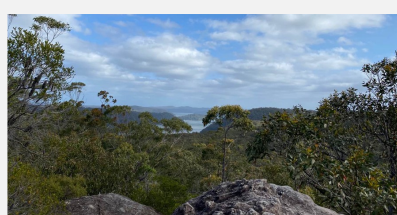
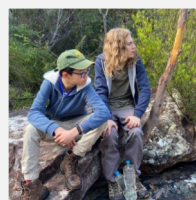
By Peter McBurney

Early in November, Youth Members of 1st Roselea Scout Troop accompanied by Leaders "Kilkie" Louisa Vorreiter "Bagheera" Nic Hillier, "Leela" Echo Xiao Wu and Adult Helper Judy Feng hiked from Wondabyne Station to camp in Pindar Cave for a night.

They actually found a tent left erected in the cave by somebody who has taken up occasional residence there, but who was absent!

Anyway the Troop were able to sleep on the floor of the cave socially distanced on their own sleeping mats without tents.

There was ample water in the nearby creek and they enjoyed the hike to the cave and back as well as a great campfire.



We hope to be back for 2021...



The 70th Sirius Cup Regatta

What is it?

- a chance for Scouts, Venturers and Leaders to get together at a camp based around water activities
- the Scout Groups camp on Balmoral Oval, just a hop, skip and a jump from the waters of Middle Harbour, as a tent city comes to life from Friday afternoon
- Scouts come from all around including interstate, Lake Burley Griffin, Lake Ginninderra and Lake Tuggeranong from the ACT, from the north (Belmont North, Woy Woy), from the west (Penrith) and from the south (Gerringong).

More Details...

- the Sirius Cup Regatta is the premier Scout sailing regatta on the Branch calendar and it is held annually
- there are 5 divisions of sailing races
- canoeing races for Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders
- rowing events
- iron man events for all-comers
- activities for the land lubbers
- evening entertainment



The when and where...

Friday 19 - Sunday 21 March 2021
Balmoral Oval/Balmoral Beach, Sydney

For more details, please visit <http://siriuscup.x10host.com/> or email siriuscup@yahoo.com.au

Mark it in your diary now!

1st NS VENNIES GO VERTICAL

By Stuart Warren

We have a lot of climbers in the 1st North Sydney Venturer Unit. If you're ever at Climb Fit St Leonards on a school day afternoon you're bound to bump into them. Two of them did really well in the recent NSW boulder champs and one of our Vennies even has a climb named after him ("Tom Thumb"), with his Dad making the first ascent in the year he was born. The Vennies have self-organised private climbing trips in the past and the Scout Group wanted to find a way to help them run their trips safely and have access to our Group's vertical equipment and bouldering mats – which means we really need these trips to happen under the banner of Scouts.



Adrian Kladnig, Rockcraft Chair, could not have given us more support if he tried. We talked through the options and he offered to run a



climbing weekend for the Unit, as part of a larger plan to get the Venturers qualified in the eyes of Scouts NSW. Adrian ran the theory night at our hall. That was the easy bit. I lost track of how many times we rescheduled the weekend due to snow, rain and covid restrictions but we finally ended up with one day up at The Nest, just north of Katoomba. Adrian was very ably assisted by Rebecca Mabbott (1st Turramurra Rovers). It was a cracker of a day and great to see a couple of our Venturers do their first outdoor lead climbs. The second day is TBD we're but hoping to get this done in early 2021.

The journey continues in 2021 with the next Abseil Level 2 course locked in for a few of our Vennies. As a new Venturer Unit, we've been hammering Basic Rockcraft courses and jumped onto the recent canyon weekends spearheaded by Craig Stanfield. Thanks SNR Rockcraft team—you are an amazing resource for the Region.

A special ASM for Matilda

By Steve Glanville

When Matilda Glanville left 1st North Ryde Scouts and came to 2nd Northmead Scout Troop she set herself a goal to earn her ASM award and have it presented to her by Norma Notley. For Background Norma has been a Cub Leader for around 70 years and is turning 100 in February next year. Norma was the person that introduced us to scouting and convinced me to become a leader. Congratulations Matilda on your ASM and thank-you to 1st North Ryde Scouts and Leaders and thank you also 2nd Northmead Scouts and Leaders who have helped Matilda earn this great award



Matilda thanks Norma Notley

GEMMA'S QUEENS SCOUT AWARD

By Cameron Jessep



On 21st of November, Gemma O'Grady of Moocooboolah District Venturer Unit was presented, at a Covid reduced afternoon tea, with her QS Award by her Venturer Leader, Barbara Fenwick.

Those present were all part of Gemma's QS journey and her family.

Gemma was a big part of rebuilding the unit from 6 in mid 2017 to the 25 Venturers it has today.

Gemma's Scouting journey began as a Joey at 1st East Ryde, and Barbara was her Cub leader there too. Her QS journey was a little more difficult as she did not continue to Scouts, but re-joined as a Venturer.

Gemma is a very gentle, compassionate and caring person who we have watched grow in confidence as her Queens Scout journey took her out of her comfort zone and pushed her to achieve things she really didn't think that she could do. All the while, her caring nature was present – putting others first and helping others achieve. A large part of her award was for service, A respite camp for special needs kids outside Scouts, Agoonaree, assistance with Joeys and catering at Sydney North Region Scout Hikes. Not surprising to those of us involved in her journey is that she has chosen to pursue a career in a caring profession, nursing.



In photo back row, Lauren Bell, Aimee Savva, Shauna O'Grady, Hannah Ottewill, Nicola Stergio, Tim Minny.

Front Row, Liam Painter (RC Venturers), Steve James (DVSL Turrumburra), Karen Brown(ex CSL East Ryde) , Meg Brown (ex Ven), Rachael Miller, Gemma O'Grady, Barbara Fenwick (VSL), Caelan Irrgang, Cameron Jessep(DC), Lyn Mann (JSL), Phillip Ward (JSL)



Scouts
SYDNEY NORTH REGION

ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITIES



2021

2020 DECEMBER—RAMPING UP

By Lucie Malone
RRC PR Co-ordinator

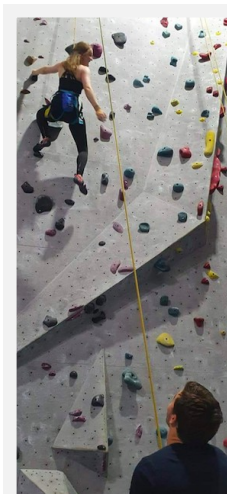
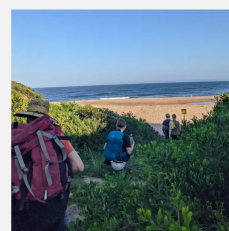
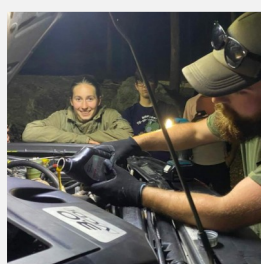
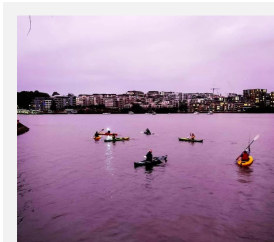


How is December already upon us!?? With Christmas just around the corner, the Rovers at Sydney North reflect on the crazy year of 2020 – one that has surprisingly, flown past. For many sections the festive season sees scouting activities begin to wrap up, however, for us Rovers, this extended break simply means more time and opportunities for adventure and fun.

As mentioned last edition, face-to-face interaction and scouting across the Region is the spice of the season, with joint nights and inter-unit adventures featuring throughout many programs. From the classic night hikes to new artistic pursuits and board games or debate nights, the breadth offered through our weekly programs certainly brings out the competitive, creative and challenging natures. As always, bouldering, rock climbing and other rock craft activities are a fan favourite, with the beginning of the canyoning season meaning many units have planned adventurous journeys right around the corner. Others turned to golf, meditation and yoga for a more relaxing week of activities.

Weekend activities are beginning to make a well-deserved come-back with road-trips, hikes, and even booting camps appearing, along with training courses such as the recent Youth Mental Health First Aid. Units across the Region are getting their festive hats on, selling Christmas trees or simply celebrating together with pool parties, sunshine and smiles. Our 2020 RRC executive team have even planned an end-of-year weekend at Euroka Clearing to celebrate all the excitement of 2020.

Despite this excitement, large mingle-based events continued to be cancelled, like our annual Kalang Kup inter-Crew sports competition as well as our annual CRAP Region Dinner and Christmas Party. However, the further relaxation of restrictions has seen more promising outlooks for future events. A revised, yet exciting Roventure Activity Day has been planned,



2020 DECEMBER—(CONTD)



along with DeMOOTcracy, and even Dragon Skin project's kicking back into gear.

As the year does draw to a close, a particular shout out to some extra fabulous rovers and units across our Region has been seen with the 2020 NSW Rover Awards recently presented. Seven of our Rovers received Rover Recognition Awards along with three Sydney North Units receiving Quality Rovering Awards. Additionally, our very own ROSCAR Awards were presented, acknowledging the fantastic units, individuals and projects which have been incredibly active throughout 2020, despite the understandable challenges.

2020 has undoubtedly been a year; however, the Rovering community at Sydney North have not let it interrupt their scouting. While a new normal appeared and actives switched online and then off again, the initiative and commitment each Unit and individual has shown to the running of weekly activities, weekend events and everything in between is something to be indeed commended. Excitement and anticipation for what adventures and opportunities 2021 holds is thus the talk of the town. In the meantime, however, from all of the Sydney North Region Rovers, we want to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas, with a beautiful New Year to come!!

QUALITY ROVERING AWARD

Normanhurst Rover Crew

Forest Rover Crew

Kananga Rover Crew

ROVER RECOGNITION AWARDS

Harry J.E. Day

Rebecca Mabbott

Donna Staff

Marcus Swift

Kacie Turner

Elyse Versace

Ash Williams

2020 ROSCAR Award Recipients

Outstanding Crew: Normanhurst

Outstanding Rover: Donna Staff (Normanhurst)

Best Service Activity: Lindfield Rocks cleanup (Sophie Carter)

Best Region Activity: Roventure 2020 (Normanhurst)

Most improved: Gordon



CUBS MADE IT THROUGH

By Cassie Donald—RC Cubs

What a year for cubs in Sydney North Region.

The Cub Section was going strong with lots of activities happening at District and Group level, before we got hit with Covid-19 and we went into lock down as a Scouting Movement. This saw a lot of groups going virtual and doing scouting stuff differently. A lot of groups encouraged their youth members to camp at and do activities which involved them participating in a camp from the comfort of their own backyard and check in with their leaders virtually. Groups were doing this until they were able to return to face-to-face scouting or return to other outdoor activities. Some of the leaders asked the youth members what they preferred and a lot of them said they were not overly keen on doing scouting virtually and prefer face-to-face scouting, because they missed their fellow scouting members. Groups have been busy implementing the new program and ensuring the youth are leading and the adults are there to support our youth members in the journey they take in Scouting. Some of the activities that have been

happening are hikes, day walks, cub leadership courses, water activities days and camps. During the year the youth members have been busy completing their journey to their peak award or Grey Wolf. As of the 5th December 2020 the



Peak Award presentation at Roselea Scout Group

region has handed out 74 peak awards or Grey Wolf's. Congratulation to all those youth members who have received their peak award or Grey Wolf. A congratulation also goes to **Emma O of East Ryde unit** for being awarded the **Scout of the Year in the Cub Section**, also we should congratulate those youth members who were runners up to Scout of the Year in the Cub Section.

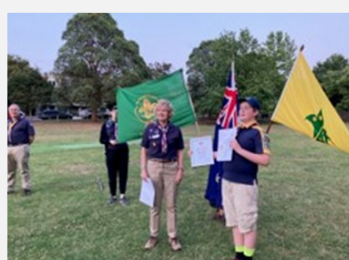
Hopefully, next year with activities planned, Group, District and Region events will happen and we will see more of our youth members out in the community, wearing their uniform with pride.

I would also like to thank all the leaders and adult helpers for coping with a tough year of scouting and hope to see you all again in 2021 for another awesome scouting year.

So, in 2021 and the start of 2022 we will see 12 Cub Scout Leadership courses run through District and Region level, 2 water activity days, 1 scavenger hunt, either local or city and 2 OAS skills days.



CSLC learning first aid @ Sailors Bay



Peak Award at Putney Unit



VP Day at Epping RSL

SNR CUBS IN PICTURES

Broken Hill and 1/2 Harbord Cubs managed to spend a fun-filled activity together



Eastwood/Marsfield bushwalking in Lane Cove National Park



A Peak Award presentation in the park—East Ryde Group



Knotting at Cub Leadership Course at Sailors Bay

SPECIAL NEEDS REPORT

By Beth Mitchell—RC Special Needs

Whilst most Scouts are revelling in being able to meet face to face our **Sydney North All Abilities**

Group (SNAA) decided to continue meeting weekly on zoom for the remainder of this year. In zoom meetings they have been sharing news; learning and practising sign language; adapting favourite games to play online, cooking, dancing, constructing, and completing their Naturalist Badge. They have enjoyed excursions to Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden and Putt Putt Golf. They are looking forward to their Christmas Party now that COVID restrictions are easing.



Sydney North All Abilities Scouts Putt Putt outing

Sydney North Region now has **Sensory Oasis Kits**, donated to Scouts NSW by St Vincent de Paul. These are available for all groups to use through a District/paired Group sharing arrangement and can be collected from SNR office by arrangement. Items in the sensory kit can be used to support youth members who experience sensory overload or sensitivity to certain activities or environmental stimuli at Scouts. Each kit includes an inventory of items and a set of basic guidelines. For more information or

advice about using the kit you can contact the Region Commissioner Special Needs Beth.Mitchell@nsw.scouts.com.au

Sensory Processing Impairments are more common than previously realised, especially for people with autism, anxiety, and areas of sensory loss such as vision or hearing impairment. Fireworks, noisy games, loud voices, flickering lights, harsh textures, body contact, unexpected changes to programs and rule changes in games, are just some of the many external stimuli that may not be well-tolerated by a youth member with Sensory Processing Impairment. Responses could include: clapping hands over ears, screaming, hitting, arguing, withdrawal from activity, fidgeting, swaying, spinning or even escaping.

Additional Resources

101 Games and Activities for Children with Autism, Asperger's, and Sensory Processing Disorders Tara Delaney, McGraw Hill, 2010

Managing Meltdowns and Tantrums on the Autism Spectrum Jenna Ward-Hawkes and Melissa Rodi, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2019.



Lunch for Sydney North All Abilities Scouts at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden

Roventure 2021: Voyage for a Vaccine

Hosted by 2nd Gordon Rovers

Be prepared for the scavenger hunt of the century! Sydney Harbour like you've never seen it before. Crew-nits will be released into Sydney Harbour attempting to follow a poorly written map to unique locations and challenges. Their trusty boat, the Sydney Harbour ferry, has a mind of its own, and coordinating this beast to aid on their journey will provide many problems for some, and sweet victory for one.

Get your most raggard clothes, wooden legs, threatening hooks and featherswords, Roventure 2021 will spare no prisoners, and parley won't be an option. So set aside Feburary 28th, and stay tuned for more info in January!



XAVIER AND MALAKAI'S ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY

By Xavier Tuyau and Malakai Akau – 1st Berowra Joeys

Welcome to the hidden world of Geocaching, until now you have been a Muggle; someone who doesn't know about it.

Geocaches are objects hidden in plain sight. There are urban ones, and ones in the bush.

A cache is an airtight container, that has a log book in it to sign.

You need a phone or a GPS machine to get co-ordinates from satellites to guide you to the cache.

Every cache has a name and clues to help find it.

It is similar to the Pokemon app but instead of being virtual you find a cache.

We have been doing geocaching since 2018 and found 559 and hidden 20

When someone likes your cache, you get favourite points.

We carry a kit that is called "tools of the trade". It contains;

- A pen to sign the log book
- A torch because you sometimes go into dark caves
- Tweezers to pick up small objects
- Magnet because some caches are magnetic
- Mirror to see around corners
- Salt for leeches

Today we are doing "The old lady" series we made and hid in Mount Colah.

There are 9 caches to find.

We will follow the GPS and clues to make our way through the story.

I hope you have as much fun as me.

This is at GPS

GPS stands for "global positioning system"

It is a radio system that uses signals from satellites to determine the user's location and give directions to other places.

The satellites orbit the earth.

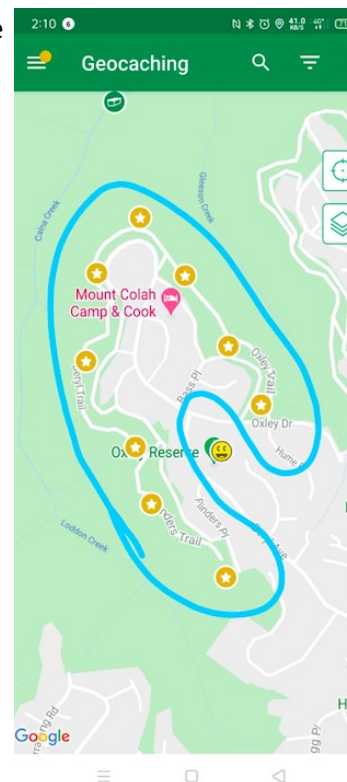
On cloudy days it is harder to get a clear reading. We are lucky today to have such nice weather.

It is the same way your parents use google maps to go places in car.

Some smart watches kids wear have one to so their parents know where they are at all times.

Besides the earth it is also used in the air and water.

Let's get started!



XAVIER AND MALAKAI'S ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY PICTURES



SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK-PATROL ACTIVITY

By Oliver Pritchard

Recently, I led a Patrol Activity around Olympic Park. The Scouts and I visited the Australian Scout Museum, Birdlife Australia and went for a 2 hour bicycle ride. Even though the weather was pretty bad we persisted and the activity was a huge success. At the Scout Museum we did such activities as water drumming, water cannons, an escape room and air cannoning. The Museum is great, you could literally spend a whole day there learning about the history of Scouts. There's old memorabilia from past jamborees and corroborees. The museum was recently renovated and now includes interactive activities. The Scout Museum isn't just an old museum. It's an activity centre where Scouts from all over the country can come and experience new things and also learn about our history. If you're interested in planning your next Patrol Activity here contact heritage.museum@nsw.scouts.com.au or visit the website at

<https://heritage.nsw.scouts.com.au/heritage-centres/australian-scout-museum>.

Next we cycled down to the Birdlife Discovery centre. Here we learned how to protect the ecosystem and identify birds. We got to have a look at EagleCamLive where we saw a young sea eagle have a brief encounter with some swooping magpies. The people who run the museum are very nice and you're guaranteed to learn something new from their amazing exhibits. There are quizzes and activities which can be done at the museum, fun for the whole troop!

Finally we went for a bike ride around Sydney



Olympic Park. We headed off from Newington Armory to Wentworth Point where we passed the archery centre. We then cycled down to Bicentennial Park before riding past the Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre and to Mc Donald's Olympic Boulevard. After a brief lunch we then cycled to the Brickpit, the site of the former state brickwork which has now been turned into a ring walk, where we walked around the giant pit, suspended above open waters. After that we cycled past the Mountain Bike Track and back to Newington Armory.

Overall our patrol activity around Sydney Olympic Park was really fun and was enjoyed by all. The activity runs for roughly around 7 hours and teaches Scouts about Birds, the history of Scouting and The Sydney 2000 Olympics. This activity is perfect for troops wanting to earn their patrol activity badge.

TRISTAN-A MESSENGER OF PEACE

My son Tristan is completing the Messenger of Peace badge and the final requirement is to share the project on Scout.org so I think we'll share it with you. Our 1st Balgowlah Joeys, Cubs and one of our scouts helped make about 250 bookmarks for Northern Beaches Home Library service. Because of Covid it's very hard to find volunteer work and the group had already made cards for the staff at our local hospital. We've attached a few photos and here are Tristan's words about the project.

"So we thought about what we should do and finally came up with the idea of bookmarks because I like books so much. We had a bookmark making night at

cubs and Nicki from the Northern Beaches home library service came to tell us what they do, delivering books to people who cannot come to the library themselves. 1st Balgowlah Joeys and one of our Scouts made some too but we were still short by around 100. The library have over 300 people they visit. So I helped organise a workshop at my after school care. It was very successful because a lot of people wanted to join in.

I did the project for the children involved to have fun and help others. I had quite a lot of fun as well and Nicki told us that we made many people happy who received the bookmarks."

By Tristan Cowie, Age 9, 1st Balgowlah Cubs

View Tristan's pictures here



BUSHCRAFT SURVIVAL COURSE/CAMP

By Rick Shires

Scouts from Elanora, Belrose, Frenches Forest and 2nd Gordon attended a Bushcraft survival Course recently facilitated by Gordon, from Bushcraft Survival Australia at Ingleside Scout Camp.

Scouts learnt important facts on being prepared if bushcraft survival were needed. These included the 10 important Items you need.

Camping on Friday night was in your own tent.

Then on Saturday, sessions were held using the outdoor classroom under a parachute. Lessons covered knife safety and use, fire preparation and use.

Following this, new knots were learnt, to use when setting up your shelter for the night (a hutchie). Various techniques for emergency shelters were demonstrated, these include using a tarp/groundsheet, garbage bag and natural vegetation.

Various bush foods were shown.

Dinner on Saturday night, made by participants, was Kangaroo and vegetables, before retiring to your hutchie.

Sunday included how to workout direction using a shadow stick and as well as water purification methods.

Participants were assessed on their shelter building and fire lighting skills.

Various methods of fire lighting were demonstrated, no matches were used.

Using facilities in the bush were taught to Scouts so you could not use campsite facilities.

Bushcraft Survival Australia holds regular courses; more information is available on their website BushcraftsurvivalAustralia.com.au

A course for Scouts will be held early next year -

Contact: Rick.Shires@nsw.scouts.com.au for details



VENTURERS TO THE RESCUE—SCOUT PLANE CRASH SURVIVERS AT SUGEE BAG CREEK

By Stuart Warren

Every year 1st North Sydney Scouts had a patrol competition, standing camp at Sugree Bag Creek. Our 2020 camp needed a change of format to meet Covid-safe requirements. The constraints around not sharing tents and food had us stumped initially, but after a bit of thought we decided to issue ration packs and army hootchies to the Scouts. One thing led to another and before we knew it, we had a survival themed camp on our hands that aligned with the OAS Bushcraft Survival badge work.

The icing on the cake was to have the Scout Air Activity Centre air-drop the ration packs, but they pointed out that there were pesky aviation rules that prevented them doing this. We came up with a good work around though (more on that later).

The Scouts arrived on the Saturday morning and we broke the news to them that they had just crash landed. There was no food or shelter for them, but we gave them the lat/lon of some of the plane debris which could be of help. We gave each patrol a GPS and off they went.

We had the Vennies along for this camp and they had the job of hiding the plane debris and logging the lat/lon before the Scouts arrived. They were very thorough at it and it took a good hour for the Scouts to find the debris. The Scouts were pretty hungry by



Leader transport

then and disappointed there was no food amongst the debris— but they did find hootchies and Tyvek sheeting.

The Scouts learnt that there were search planes looking for them. There was one expected to pass overhead in 30 minutes and it might be able to drop food if the Scouts could make themselves visible from the air. They got to work and figured



Scout Hootchie camp

SCOUT PLANE CRASH SURVIVERS (CONTD.)



Weeding

burnt in the fires last year (fortunately not the Scout Camp) and by the time the Venturers walked into camp they were covered in ash. It

was a solid off-track bushwalking effort.

out that the white Tyvek would be visible from the air along with a few other things. They did a good job of it.

We didn't have a plane but, in the lead up to the camp, one of the Venturers suggested using our trailer as the plane. We put our one Joey at camp in the back of the trailer with the ration packs and drove slowly past the Scout camp. The Joey was under strict instructions to throw out the ration packs only if he thought the Scouts did a good job of being visible from the air. We drove straight past, but no ration packs were handed out (this Joey has high standards). By this stage the Scouts cottoned on to what was going on, did a bit better with their air visibility and were showered with ration packs on the second pass.

In the meantime we had dropped the Vennies off along the road to the campsite with instructions to hike in through the headwaters of Sugee Bag Creek to find the Scouts. Marilyn Scott (from the "Adventures with M" blog) has done a bit of exploring above the Scout Camp and after comparing notes we picked a good route for the Vennies to hike in (not that they followed it, but there were lots of good "catching" features on the route). It was the first test of our new InReach Mini satellite trackers and a good opportunity for the Venturers to get used to using them. The area was

Just as the day was wrapping up the UTS Rocketry Club arrived to talk the Scouts through rocket assembly. It wasn't really part of the survival theme but it was too good an opportunity to pass up. Ray McQuillan (SL) had sourced a set of 20 rocket kits for camp and the UTS Rocketry club supplied a few as well. The rockets continued on the Sunday along with an impressive weeding effort and a Scouts Own in the chapel. It was a fun weekend for all involved.

Some Scout-friendly distributors:

Ration packs: Portion Pack Foods (NZ) (<https://portionpackfoods.com/>)

Hootchies: TI Trading (www.titrading.com.au)



Rocket making

1ST SAILORS BAY ERSKINE CREEK HIKE

By Adrian Spragg

1st Sailors Bay Sea Scouts felt the need to do more hikes, though the Covid-19 restrictions of one person per tent presented a weight problem. The older Scouts had made successful day & overnight hikes to Pindar Cave in October without tents & adults, but how to organise a hike more attractive to the younger scouts?

Dadder Cave on Erskine Ck south of Glenbrook in the lower Blue Mountains appeared to be a good prospect – a cave as end goal, by the water, and not requiring tents. A reconnaissance 2 weeks before the planned trip showed the cave to be not large enough, access to water there not inspiring,



and the remainder of the planned walk down Erskine Ck and exit via the Jack Evans track gruelling <http://www.wildwalks.com/bushwalking-and-hiking-in-nsw/glenbrook-eastern-blue-mountains/dadder-cave-and-jack-evans-track.html> . Admittedly the 40 degree heat on that day was exceptional.

However, the roomy campsite at the junction of Erskine & Lincoln Creeks showed itself to be exceptional and the large waterhole there superb. We encountered nobody at that location, so there would be a good chance we



would have it to ourselves on the planned hike. Review of the map showed the headwaters of Lincoln Ck to be entirely in the national park, so that water would be drinkable as long as it exists. (Apparently it was dry 2 years ago). So this was to be the planned walk

[https://www.wildwalks.com/wildwalks_custom/walk_pdfs/saved/Dadder%20Cave%20\(nsw-bmnp-dc\).pdf](https://www.wildwalks.com/wildwalks_custom/walk_pdfs/saved/Dadder%20Cave%20(nsw-bmnp-dc).pdf)

(Water addendum – while the headwaters of Erskine Ck are on the Great Western Highway = human habitation and so to be avoided, my daughter was forced to drink it and did not get sick. The long journey through the national park probably filters it, and environmental standards have lifted since the writer as a scout drank Kedumba Ck water on



1ST SAILORS BAY ERSKINE CREEK HIKE (CONTD.)



a Mt Solitary hike and was as sick as a dog. At that time, untreated Katoomba sewerage flowed down the creek into Warragamba Dam. Bushwalkers have always found the 3 kilometre exclusion zone around the dam to be a tragic joke).

So it was that 4 leaders and 9 scouts (2 dropped out on the morning) drove out along the Nepean Lookout firetrail on 12.12.20 to the Pisgah Rock parking. A side trip to Attic Cave, then the steep descent was managed with some pack passing for lunch at the campsite, and the packless afternoon walk upstream along rock shelves to



Dadder Cave. The welcome bathing there was OK, but proved how good the swimming hole at our campsite upon our return was.

A nearby group of campers (also from Castlecrag & Northbridge!!) commented positively on the



unstructured play as our scouts cohesively worked to build a bridge across Erskine Ck.

After spaghetti dinner, damper cooking on sticks moved into full production. Sunset resulting in the silencing of the cicada crescendo was welcomed by all. Some were able to watch in torchlight glistening cicada nymphs moulting their exoskeletons at a glacial pace. We had hoped to sleep under the stars, but the forecast rain presented a problem for that. 1st North Sydney's generous offer to loan individual hoochies protected us from the light rain through the night.

Damper making continued on Sunday morning



1ST SAILORS BAY ERSKINE CREEK HIKE (CONTD.)

before more swimming and back massages from the rapids. The climb back up to Pisgah Rock was another group bouldering and pack hauling effort, and was achieved without the ropes we had brought with us. 7 year old wannabe Scout Grace kept up her constant chatter throughout.

At Pisgah Rock we had a last opportunity to look down on Erskine Creek before returning to the cars and arriving back in Sydney by 14.00.



Meanwhile Back at the 1st Sailors Bay hall

Another magnificent Hugues Sineux mural is completed for the enjoyment of all.





Sydney North Region Office Closure.

2 Ellis Street, Chatswood NSW 2067

Will be closed from

11am - 23rd December 2020

and will re-open

9am 11th January 2021

Wendy & Belinda wish every member, leader, supporter, and their families all the joy & happiness this holiday season has to offer. Have a wonderful Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, joy and adventure. Looking forward to seeing you all in the new & improved 2021.



EDITORIAL



Imagine your child
having to miss out on this
fun

Well, some do!



Scouts NSW has established the Family Support Fund to ensure youth from families of financially disadvantaged backgrounds or who are experiencing financial stress can participate fully in Scouting.

For more information or to make a donation, go to:
<https://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/familysupportfund/>

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