



SCOUTS NEW SOUTH WALES
SYDNEY NORTH REGION

COMPASS

www.sydneynorthscouts.com

October 2020—Vol.2 Issue 19

KING PARROTS LAND AT 1ST SAILORS BAY

By Adrian Spragg



Have you seen the King Parrots Mural at the 1st Sailors Bay Scout Hall at 43 Eastern Valley Way, Northbridge? While it can be seen driving from Castlecrag towards Northbridge, it is best viewed on foot. It complements the walk from Eastern Valley Way down Sailors Bay Creek towards Warners Park with its wonderful children's playground and community gardens next to Willoughby Council's environmental centre.

The hall is the old Warner's Milk Depot, built about 1938 – 39, and has been showing its age. A Federal Government Grant was used to engage local Northbridge artist Hugues Sineux to paint the male and female King Parrots on the side of the stables as a local attraction for the community and to draw attention to the local wildlife in our urban environment. It is hoped that it will celebrate fauna at a time when so many species are at risk of survival in Australia due to urbanisation, predators and climate change. Willoughby Council's bushcare activities have wrought change in the valley with coral trees and privet being replaced by native figs and coachwood. Do take the opportunity to follow the creek all the way down to the bay, and marvel at the 6 metre waterfall enroute.

GREEN CORD HIKE TO NEWCASTLE

By Nicola Heath - 1st Hornsby Heights

On Thursday 8th October we all met at Hornsby Station and got the train to Newcastle Interchange. We then walked to Bar Beach and then down to Merewether Beach. The tide was high so we got very wet feet and had to do some rock scrambling to get along the beach.

We camped the first night at Glenrock Scout Camp and there were so many moths that you couldn't eat anything without eating a moth as well.

Friday we hiked up the hill from Glenrock and then all the way over to Warners Bay, where we camped beside the Scout Hall in a big patch of Bindies.

On Saturday morning we headed off along the edge of Lake Macquarie and walked around to Booragul Train Station just in time for the next train, so we didn't have to wait 2 hours.

We were really lucky as we had no rain at all and the days were hot and sunny. It was great to be back out hiking and camping with my friends given COVID has stopped a lot of activities this year.

Thanks to my hiking team – Abbey, Elaine, Rachel, Alyssa, Jess & Tahlia – the all girl crew.



1ST SAILORS BAY REACH PINDAR CAVE

By Zhan Luo—PL

It's interesting how the train and commute length seem to lengthen when you aren't going to school. When we went to Wondabyne (the station with no road and no overhead crossing), we had to specifically tell the guard to stop at Wondabyne- it's an SP1r stop, meaning that we had to depart from the last carriage's rear door. When we got there the first thing we did was let a freight train of unknown length pass, with severe damage to our ears. When we finally reached the start of the walk, it immediately gave us an uphill climb, then left us to what was supposed to be a fire trail, but was something like a Downhill MTB trail (jokes about the sustainability of having a fire engine rush down here at 70 km and hour were much appreciated).

Most of the time we went along in a big group, though we did decide that the 'entrance' to the hike was correct and incorrect (if you're wondering, it was correct). After some pleasant downhill walking through what seemed to be a much smaller fire trail, we concluded that this was all a pleasant walk. However, the main trail soon narrowed, with brush and annoying shrubbery, and some other things like rocks and roots. When we got to the first 'breakpoint', everyone got out something to eat, as everyone was knackered due to the combination of steep hills and other things like fatigue (after all, most of us were up at 6:50!). We eventually convinced ourselves, that yes, we would go on and not just return the way we came.

When we finally got to the cave (after approximately an hour of walking), the first thing we did was gather some wood for a fire. We were not alone, as some more people



passed through to get to the waterfall (more on that later). The other thing we did was make a fire (after smoking out pretty much the entire cave), and went to the waterfall. However, please do not think that the waterfall is a big one, in fact, it is 'seasonal' (according to the WildWalks trail), and so, unfortunately we did not see something like the Niagara Falls; instead only a slight stream of water.

When we finally decided to go back to the station, we went exactly the way we came (it's a one-way trail), and so we went, and just caught the 4:20 train back to Hornsby. Along the way, we split into two groups (the 'faster' and 'slower' groups), and made our way back. On the train, we had some snacks, then before we knew it, the train pulled into Hornsby. After catching the train to Chatswood (some people got off earlier), we bid our goodbyes and that was the end of the official hike.



Scouts L to R—Benji (APL), Ryan (APL) Zoe, Isobel (APL). Baxter (PL). Mitch, Zhan and Joey (PLs)

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!

TRIPPLE GREY WOLF-1ST HORNSBY HEIGHTS WOMBATS

By Darren Heath

1st Hornsby Heights Wombats were lucky enough to be able to celebrate achievement of the Grey Wolf Award by Charlie Hildebrandt, Damon McStravick and David Leverton on Friday 25 September 2020.

To keep within our Covid numbers we decided to do a combined Hall and Zoom session and were joined by Mang (Benowie District Cub Leader) and Cassie (Region Commissioner Cubs) along with some family and friends from near and wide. We even had interstate guests join us online!

Charlie, Damon and David have all been very active Cubs in their time with the Wombats and have set a great example and provided great leadership for our more junior Cubs. They all led their Grey Wolf Hikes in various parts of the local area in June, soon after our return to face to face Scouting. The hikes were a great way to get back to what we enjoy most – being out and about enjoying our local area with great friends.

We wish Charlie, Damon and David the best as they move up to Scouts in the coming term.



Damon's Grey Wolf hike at Whale Rock



David, Charlie, Damon



Past members present the Honour Board

1st ALLAMBIE HEIGHTS COAST HIKE

By Nick White

Over the past 12 months the 1st Allambie Heights scouts have planned and cancelled 2 major hikes, and as a region we have had at least 4 camps cancelled this year due to COVID. However, we will not be stopped from getting into the great outdoors. As soon as Scouts gave us clearance to begin our activities again, we began planning.

We wanted to do a classic Australian hike, but not something so hard that our new Scouts were overwhelmed. After careful selection, we chose to do the Coast Track in the Royal National Park, just south of Sydney. This walk covers the coastline of the Royal National Park and can only be described as amazing. With breathtaking coastal views from Bundeena to Otford this walk follows the cliffs along a well managed and signposted track. Perfect for inspiring a group of Scouts to love hiking.



With everything planned and 11 Scouts committed to the hike, we were set to go. Then COVID struck again and all camping was put on hold from mid August. We waited with baited breath, finally getting clearance to go just 2 days before the scheduled departure.

Because we had a mix of experienced Scouts and younger Scouts, we split the group in two, with the older scouts starting out from Bundeena, past the Wedding Cake, along Marley Beach and meeting the rest of the unit at Wattamolla Beach 10kms into the first day for a well deserved lunch break. We then proceeded South along the coast with magnificent ocean views fronted by towering cliff lines through to Garie Beach, where we met our supply crew with our tents for the evening.

As per the COVID rules, each Scout needed to have their own tent for sleeping, so we carried these only for the last 1.5kms to North Era Beach. We were also lucky enough to have the Surf Club volunteers at Garie Beach fill up our water bottles ahead of the evening meal. Thanks for that!

At North Era we found a beautiful campsite, a little



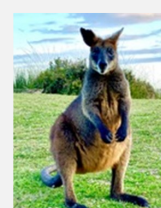
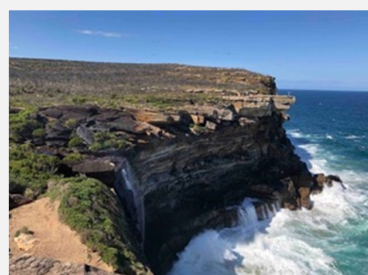
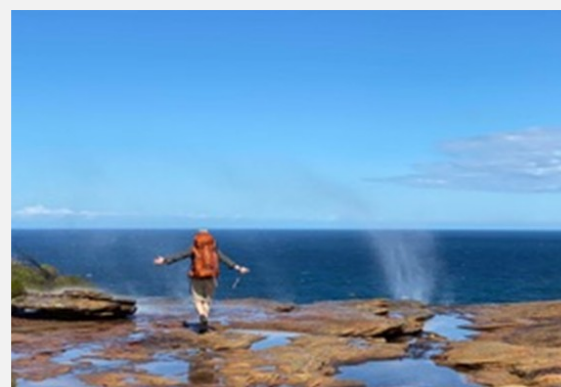
boggy in places, with the roar of the surf in the background. We cooked dinner in the shadows of the long grass to keep out of the evening onshore breeze, and enjoyed a warm meal. After an 18km hike most of the Scouts were pretty tired, and all were in bed by 7:30pm, including the leaders.

The following morning our first job was to return the tents to Garie Beach, so 5 of the Scouts volunteered and carried all the tents back over the hill and met our morning supply crew. The rest of us practised navigation, learning how to triangular our position on a map using the features of the landscape that we could see around us.

Next we headed South, through Burning Palms and past the famous Figure 8 pools. We then began the steep climb up to the Cliff Track, and had a magnificent lunch on a rock looking out over a beach known as Hell Hole on the map. It could only be accessed via very steep slopes and made for a fantastic view point for our day 2 lunch.

The walk out was pretty easy from there and through Otford Station to catch the train back to meet the parents. All of the Scouts had a fantastic time, with many of them doing their first hiking and camping since transitioning from Cubs. We are all looking forward to our next hike, with at least 2 requested before Xmas. Time to get the Scouts planning.

Key reflections from the Scouts - having good hiking shoes matters, water management is important, having a hiking pack (not a travel pack) that is properly fitted is essential, and finally, carrying your own map and knowing where you are on it means that you don't have to ask 'are we there yet?'





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HANSARD – 15 OCTOBER 2020
SCOUTS NSW YOUTH SAFETY EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)— The protection and wellbeing of young people is central to Scouts NSW. So I am pleased they have developed a new youth safety education campaign: 'Know It. Live It. Log It. Safe fun for All'. There are many local Scouts groups in my electorate of Davidson. These groups and the broader scouting movement endeavour to create an environment where all members know they have a right to feel safe, supported and protected. This ensures they have opportunities to thrive as future leaders of our society. To symbolise the next step in their journey as a youth safe organisation, the new campaign will have an even greater impact in safeguarding youth. Young people will learn the principles of 'Know It. Live It. Log It.', and be empowered to make these behaviours standard practice. I commend the scouting movement, led by Chief Commissioner Neville Tomkins OAM, and wish them future success.

The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP
 Member for Davidson
 NSW Parliament
 Suite 8A, 12-18 Tryon Road,
 LINDFIELD NSW 2070.

Dear Jonathan

Greetings from Scouts NSW!

I was delighted to see your Statement recorded in Hansard yesterday referring to our Youth Safety Education Campaign.

On behalf of our 17 000 youth and volunteers Leaders across NSW, including the many Scout Groups and Rover Crews in your Electorate of Davidson, I thank you for your initiative. This public recognition of our hard work to make Scouting as safe as it can be for our children and youth, is very much appreciated.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your wonderful support of Scouting, not just in the Sydney North Region, but also across our State. I was delighted you were one of the first to accept our invitation last year to *Scarf up for Scouting*, and to join the *NSW Parliamentary Friends of Scouts*. You also kindly donated an item last year for us to auction at our gala Dinner, with all proceeds going to our Bushfire Recovery Program.

We offer our special thanks to you for your wonderful support.

With best wishes,

Yours in Scouting,

Neville Tomkins OAM, JP
 Chief Commissioner
 Scouts Australia (NSW Branch)

16 October 2020



Chief Commissioner
 Neville Tomkins OAM, JP, SAHM,
 GAICD, BA (Hons), Dip Mgt.

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2020 OCTOBER—SPRINGING OUT

By Lucie Malone
RRC PR Co-ordinator

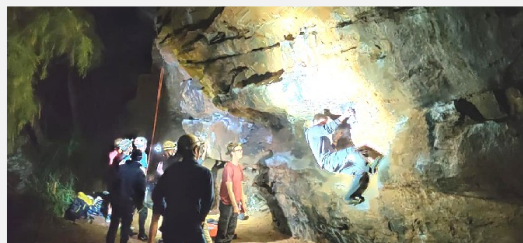


Spring has indeed sprung, and that means we are FINALLY at the back end of one crazy year, 2020. The last few months have seen restriction continue to fluctuate and change, but that has not stopped the Rovering community of Sydney North Region. They continue to adapt to this new normal and keep on keeping on, scouting in the only way they know how with adventure, excitement and a whole lot of fun!!

Face-to-face interaction among the region has particularly taken off, with in-person activities becoming the top priority for most of our Units. Instead of distance and virtual shenanigans to navigate, the new challenge of numbers and socially distant activities have moved to the forefront within all Units, big and small. This has driven many back into the outdoors, finding new activities and revisiting old; all while catering for revised numbers. Running two different activities on a night or weekend is an example some Units have engaged with, ensuring everyone has the best opportunity to get involved.

From climbing to abseiling, canyoning and everything rocky in-between, it would not be Sydney North Rovers without the appearance of the rock craft-team, excited and ready to explore more as the weather continues to warm. The winter season skiing has turned into Snowy Mountain hikes and mountain biking, while the 4WD driving getaways and crew camps return with mini clusters of tent cities pitched across various NSW locations. On a more weekly basis, you can find Units both teaching, learning and revising their newly found lock-down skills ranging from languages to tie-dye and meditation. While some get their green thumbs on with service projects or garden maintenance, others take to the sky with aerial yoga and bouldering. The summer favourites of swimming, sailing and kayaking are beginning to appear once again, while that creative spark still flies with more Bob Ross paint nights, pottery and even Lego competitions.

With some restriction remaining, traditional service



2020 OCTOBER—(CONTD)



projects throughout the region are proving a little more challenging. Despite this, our Rovers were still available to assist at the recent Hornsby Lifeline pop-up bookstall, while others rolled up their sleeves and gave blood. With more opportunities for face to face contact resuming, exciting nights and even overnight activities with the various Venture Units across the region have been planned and executed, fostering those greater connections and friendships as the year continues.

A certainly shaken up 2020 social calendar has unfortunately seen more of our favourite annual events postponed, or as we like to see, it saved for a bigger and better year next. The upcoming region dinner, however, is certainly something to look forward to with online cooking, games and ROSCAR awards to be shared.

Challenges and change have certainly taken the spotlight of 2020 thus far, yet, resilience and initiative seen with the SNR Rovering community is undoubtedly something to be commended. As the scouting and wider community do continue to open, we certainly cannot wait to see what further activities filled with fun and adventure appear.

1st Brush Park Scouts got to 'Big Camp'

By Liam Moreland, PL

Not even COVID-19 could hold back 1st Brush Park from holding a BIG CAMP full of fun and Scouting. The Scouts thought the camp they had planned in January would not go ahead, but some "out of the box" thinking made it happen.

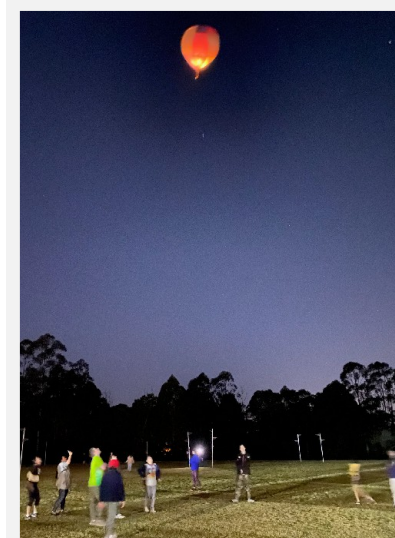
During the first week of the holidays my Scout Troop, 1st Brush Park, embarked on a 7-day camp. As we could not actually camp in tents, due to COVID, it was a bit unusual. We had the option to camp in our garden and some did.

Starting on the 26th September we meet up at 8:00am to begin our adventure. During the week, we did everything from hiking to an escape room.

On our first day we met at Cherrybrook Scout Hall and did navigation and hiked 15k using an orienteering map. We had a few injuries but nothing serious. We had lunch looking over the valley between Cherrybrook and Westleigh. We continued on until we hit the end of the bush. We unfortunately had to climb up the Hornsby Heritage steps (which felt like death). We then finished at Hornsby train station.

The 27th we were back at it again for a day in our local town and a Scouts' Own. But before we left the hall, we made tissue paper hot air balloons. After lunch we did a heritage tour. Each of us were given a place in Eastwood to find the history about. We had things like Eastwood train station, Eastwood Public School, the old Odeon Theatre and Brush Farm House. We walked to each location and stopped to listen to one of the Scouts give a talk about the place. This was the main event. We also trekked to a "secret" Eastwood cemetery near Swane's Nursery for a Scouts' Own on "believing in yourself".

On the 28th we experienced camp life, and this is how it sounds. We set up a campsite and were judged as we would at district camps. Then, in our patrols, we had to plan a menu for two meals, went to Woolies to get the food and cooked on a fire, BBQ or in a Camp Oven. Only two people got burned. Once the sun set, we looked at the stars and did some astronomy. We found true south using the stars and then sent up our hot air balloons we made the day before. To send them up we tied some string to the end, so they did not fly away. But, when one person pulled the string, the



1st Brush Park “Big Camp” (Contd)

balloon tipped and caught fire (no one got hurt).

The 29th we were now just over half way through our camp. This was a bit more of a relaxed day. Plan-do-review leadership was our main focus so we did three Scout Hike type activities where we had to work together and listen to the leader: 1. assembling a signalling circuit and then raising a flag pole, 2. defusing a bomb without talking or writing and finally 3. directing a blindfolded team to the team’s leader who had to use a “rear-view” mirror. After lunch we headed to Macquarie Shopping Centre to do an escape room, movie and dinner.

On the 30th we did more hiking but this time on a bike. We met at Meadowbank netball courts and split into three groups: fast, medium and slow cycling, and headed to Sydney Olympic Park. If you were in the faster group, they went longer and further. We had some pit stops along our route, such as Wentworth Common playground, the Bicentennial Park tower and, and lastly Sydney BMX track. On this day we had one minor injury of falling off a flying fox and one serious injury falling off a bike at the BMX track. He needed 3 stitches (ED: but is completely fine, now). We cycled 40km and everyone was really tired when we returned to the netball courts.

The 1st October was the penultimate day, and we went to the city. We all started at Milson’s Point to walk over the Sydney Harbour Bridge then split into three patrols to do our own planned tours of the city including places such as the Botanic Gardens, Macquarie Street and NSW Parliament House. We all met up at Sydney Tower had lunch and went up the Tower. We spent a bit of time up there then left to go to the Hyde Park War Memorial for a tour of the Memorial. Then we caught the train home.

The 2nd October was our last day and we helped clean up Addington house, a heritage house in Ryde and the home of the Scout & Guide Guild. We dusted and cleaned up inside. On the outside we pulled weeds, took vines off the fence and cleaned the stones. The TWT Editor-In-Chief, John Booth, (himself a Guild member) even dropped by to say thank you and take photos. This was only a half day, so we were done by 12.30. A huge thank you to HP (Lynda Calder) our Scout Leader for planning and executing the week. Also, for putting up with us crazy scouts.

BRAVOOO also to all the Scouts who attended and earned many badges along the way. But the main focus, as it should be, was fun. Learning along the way was a bonus.



Rockcraft Team RESCUE WORKSHOP

By Craig Stanfield

On Sunday the Rockcraft team was glad to be out and about and able to hold two Covid friendly RESCUE Workshops involving 22 team members. Everyone walked away with some new knowledge and a huge sense of achievement.

The topics covered were:

Lowering rescues using Releasable Anchors

- Munter Mule Overhand
- Figure 8 block
- Contingency 8
- Gigi

Releasing a carabiner block

Passing a bend (through a releasable anchor)

Hauling Rescues - Raising

- converting a releasable anchor to lower
- 1:1
- 2:1
- 3:1
- 5:1 Complex
- 8:1 using multiplier setup
- Calculating ratios using the T method

Margaret Falls scenario -

Rescue on a second pitch down a face

Climbing Rescue -

Rescuing a lead climber from below





HORNSBY GANG SHOW



Audition applications are open for Hornsby Gang Show's 2021 season! Active members of the Scouting and Guiding Associations, who by Friday 2 July 2021 have turned 11 years, and are no older than 26 years can apply.

Hornsby Gang Show is a fantastic opportunity to grow your confidence, learn about performing on stage, work towards badges and awards, make lifelong friends, and have a blast while doing it! We encourage all older Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers, Junior Guides, Guides, and Senior Guides to give it a go!

When:

Saturday 21st November 2020

Auditions take approximately 2 hours, and involve singing, dancing and acting.

Where:

Gang Show Central - Reddy Park, Pretoria Parade, Hornsby

Confirmation:

You will receive an email from our Personnel Team closer to the end of November 2020, including confirmation of your audition time slot and any other relevant information you need to know.

The production team are looking forward to meeting you in November. Make sure you spread the word to all of your Scouting and Guiding friends - the more the merrier!

APPLY HERE: <https://www.gangshow.com/audition>



REFLECIONS FROM (N)YP

By Oliver Descoeudres

As one of the NSW New Youth Program Pioneer Groups, 2nd Gordon has reached a two-year milestone on the new program. Some of the recent Cub Scout "Personal Reflections" as they transition from Cubs to Scouts prompted a reflection on two of the key changes in our approach, which we now take for granted.

Youth Leading

"My leadership skills have greatly improved since I first came here. I love being a PL and helping all the newbies and showing them what to do." Leadership has always been part of the Scouting approach, but NYP elevates this to a new level. Cubs now plan the program every term, and every activity has at least one Youth Leader. As Adult Leaders, our roles are more facilitators – helping to bring the Unit Council's vision to reality in a safe way, you might say!



The biggest challenge we found with a growing and rowdy Cub unit is providing the Cub PLs and APLs with the skills and confidence they need to lead. If it's challenging for adults

to get 36 Cubs to listen – it's even harder for a youth leader: *"I learnt that being a leader is hard and it's tough to get people to listen to you, planning an activity was fun to come up with as I had some ideas in my head of what I could do. We now run an annual Cub Leadership Camp and remind ourselves every week that patience is a virtue! "From being a leader at an activity/game, I learnt that you have to be patient with the people when you are leading because they won't always listen to you, and that you have to give loud and clear instructions so everyone can understand."*



Programmatic Diversity

Making the shift from the relative security of selecting an activity in the Yellow Book each week to having the Cubs brainstorm a new

program each term was initially a little confronting. But as we grew more comfortable with the freedom of the new program, it was surprising and rewarding to watch the PLs and APLs each term come up with new ideas and activities: *"Other fun challenges include bike riding, knot tying, first aid and rock climbing. Although, I can't think of one challenge that I haven't liked"*. Other than building a flying fox across the valley near our Scout Hall (which we couldn't quite get past our risk assessment

policy!), we tried all sort of new indoor and outdoor challenges.

Every Unit Council planning day generated a number of Community Challenge suggestions: one activity that's now become an



annual favourite is "Clean up the Creek". *"I have also helped the community a lot through Cubs. For example, the rubbish clean-up day where we go down to the bush to try and pick the most rubbish"*. The patrols compete to see who can collect the most rubbish, with items including an abandoned flat screen TV, bicycles and a shopping trolley! We've had many Cub-run

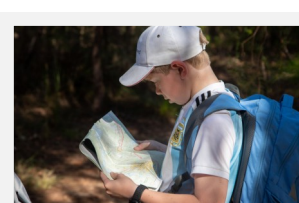
cooking nights, a Medieval Night, 3D Printing, Rock Climbing, Ice blocking and a Patrol Olympics.



While the program is somewhat complex with its Milestones, Special Interest Areas and Outdoor Activity Skills, it also means that just about any idea can be incorporated into the program and we've

undertaken a broader range of activities in the last couple of years than ever before. *"We did a lot of cool stuff like cooking, building, picking up rubbish, mapping/geography, blind folding games and a lot more."*

There are obviously a lot of other changes we made, but embrace these two key ones and you'll wonder why you didn't make the move sooner!



TAMBO CYCLING ADVENTURE

Tambourine Bay Scout Group ran our inaugural Tambo Cycling Adventure for all sections on Saturday 23 August. This was originally conceived as an opportunity for a cross-sectional activity at Sydney Olympic Park, and part of our launch of the Outdoor Adventure Skills under the new youth program. But COVID-19 restrictions meant that we could be in groups of a maximum of 20 people, so we split up into two joey groups who cycled around Newington Armory at Homebush; two cub groups who cycled around Bicentennial Park in Homebush; a scout group that did a ride from Meadowbank to Parramatta and return; and the venturers went mountain biking in the Blue Mountains.

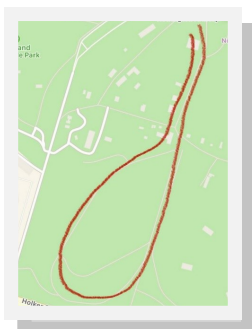
It was a beautiful day for a bike ride and a lot of fun was had by everyone. Several youth passed requirements for the Cycling Outdoor Adventure Skills, and the confident joey cyclists counted this as their 3 hour adventurous journey for their peak awards under the new youth program. We'll definitely be running the event next year! Hopefully COVID-19 restrictions will have been relaxed by then!

By Caroline Jerrems – Tambourine Bay Joey section leader

Following are some recounts from the project patrol leaders of each group.

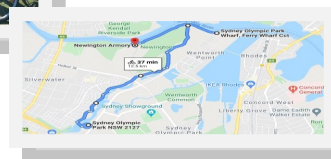
"We went to Newington Armory to look at all the tracks in advance. On the day, first we got into two groups, then we talked about why we wear helmets and look after our bikes to stop the wheels falling off. Then we scooted and rode our bikes along the track and at the end chose a big or small loop. It was so much fun."

By Amber and Kyle – Tambo Joey Scouts, leaders of the beginner cyclists and Scooterers joey group



"I was so proud to lead a bike ride for the confident joey cyclists from Newington Armory to the Spiral and back. It was 12 and a half kilometres long! We stopped at the top of the spiral for lunch and we also played hide and seek. When we got back from the spiral some of us got ice creams and we saw the scouts who were doing their bike ride. My friend Beth and I then went to Blaxland Reserve playground to play. Thank you to the joeys who came - Zoe, Beth, Zac and Lucien; the siblings Nicholas and Sassy; the parents Alan, Georgia, Will and leaders Tatiana and Caroline."

By Lachlan - Tambo Joey Scout, Project Patrol leader of the confident joey cyclist group



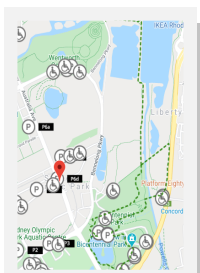
"On Sunday, the cubs section went on a bike ride at Sydney Olympic park and we did a safety talk (David and Daniel, ABC check), it started at Wentworth Common. First we went to The Brickpit and looked around. There was a GIGANTIC pond that had green stuff all over it, and it looked like the world. After looking around we went to a huge spiral, some people biked up and some people walked up. Daniel and others walked up straight through the tall grass. After a while they went down and went back up again. Later we went to some shipwrecks, some were wooden and some were metal. Some people tried skimming rocks on the water without success. Then we went back to Wentworth Common for some lunch. At Wentworth Common we also played on the fun slides and equipment."

By David and Daniel – Tambo Cub Scouts

Daniel; My favourite part was the shipwrecks.

David; My favourite part was the spiral.

TAMBO CYCLING ADVENTURE (CONTD)



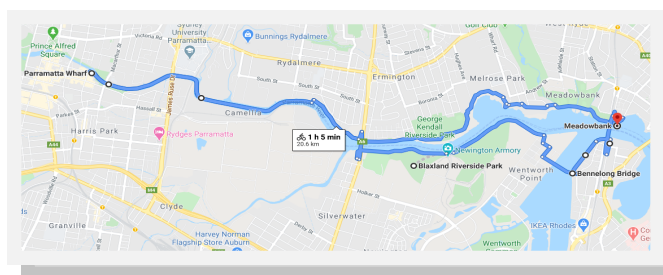
"Ethan, Henry, Rhys, Olivia and I all participated in the scout component of the Tambo Cycling Adventure along with some parents and our leader Bill. First, we arrived at Meadowbank wharf. We headed along the river sticking mostly to the shoreline until we got to Rydalmere wharf where we had a break. We then had lunch at Parramatta on the other side of the river. We then headed over the Silverwater Bridge and went to Sydney Olympic Park where we got ice cream. We then headed back across the pedestrian bridge to Rhodes and then the rail bridge to end back up at Meadowbank wharf. I really enjoyed the ride."

By Nathan - Tambo Scouts



"The Tambourine Bay Venturers departed Sydney early in the morning and headed across the Nepean River and up into the mountains. After a quick coffee stop, we arrived at the locked gate at the start of the Narrowneck Peninsula in Katoomba. It was cold and windy, and it had even snowed the day before, but we were excited to get riding. It took us an hour to ride out to the end of the 10km, gravel road peninsula and along the way, we encountered stunning views that looked over the surrounding valleys and very steep hills which we did our best to conquer. At the end of the peninsula, we enjoyed cups of tea and stunning views of the very full-looking Warragamba Dam. On the way back along Narrowneck, we enjoyed riding down the hills we had struggled to get up, but also realised that we had taken some of the downhill on the first-leg for granted as we quickly used up whatever energy we still had to get to the top of them. Some hills were long and gradual, and some were short and steep. Either way, they burned our legs as we went into our lowest gear to get to the top of them. After a total of three hours, we were back at the locked gate with very tired legs and near-empty water bottles. It was great to have been able to get outside after a lockdown period that felt like it lasted forever."

By Duncan – Tambo Venturers



TAKE IT AS A CHALLENGE

By Leah Fisher

40 *Ku-ring-gai District Scouts and Leaders gathered at Thornleigh Oval to participate in the first Rogaining activity hosted by Bold Horizons.*

This year the traditional District Camp was cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions on camping. We were determined not to lose the traditional Scouting skills so set up a remote Test Competition, following many of the usual rules, with submissions being made through an online submission process. A highlight for the District Camp is usually the Golden Boot, a touch football competition. Wanting to retain the sense of community we decided to substitute the Golden Boot with the Golden Runner Award, an orienteering competition instead.

Orienteering is a group of sports that require navigational skills using a map and compass to navigate from point to point in diverse and usually unfamiliar terrain whilst moving at speed. Participants are given a topographical map, usually a specially prepared orienteering map, which they use to find control points.

It was a cold and misty morning when 40 Scouts and Leaders joined together in Covid limited starting line up in patrols from five groups in the Ku-ring-gai District, 1st Pymble Scouts, 1st Gordon Scouts, 2nd Turramurra Scouts, 2nd St Ives Scouts and North St Ives Scouts to join the first District Orienteering event, hosted by Bold Horizons at Thornleigh Oval in September this year. Barb Hill, and the Bold Horizon's team, had set out an orienteering course with a maximum possible point score of 600 points through Lane Cove National Park. Thankfully by the end of the event there were clear skies.

Scouts registered with their patrols, and were given orienteering maps and half an hour to plan their route

Scouts headed out to try to beat their opposition patrols.

A highlight for leaders at the home base was when each of the Patrols texted in their photo from a designated point, gaining an additional 30 points for their patrols. We loved seeing their smiling happy faces, as they were clearly enjoying being out with their Scouty Mates, which was a goal for the competition for the District Leaders.



2nd Turramurra—
Turra Gang

Walloping
Goannas—
1st Gordon



Dashing Dingos—
1st Gordon

NSI Eagles



HORNSBY HEIGHTS JOURNEYS WORKSHOP

Larissa Tompsett

To shake off the lockdown blues, Hornsby Height's Scouts spent a lovely weekend out in Berowra Valley National Park upskilling in navigation and bushcraft skills.

9 Dropbear and Yarama Scouts joined with 5 senior Scouts and Venturers on day 1 for the on-track experience. Each Scout is given a map, blank route card and navigation tools and with their mentor, plot out each way point before walking that leg and reviewing their planning. While only walking 4 km total, we spent time at each stop addressing navigation and bushcraft topics such as water collection, navigational aids, and group management.

At lunch, each Scout had a cooked meal so that younger Scouts could see the variety of food and techniques we use. We then spent some time participating in shelter building, in our case tents with forgotten parts - how many times have you heard "we forgot the poles\fly" or "the poles broke" so each group was given a tent part and asked to put it up as an imaginary storm was approaching. After a further discussion on survival gear, we set off on an off-track exercise in small groups. This was a great experience for scout who are so used to following trails, realising how long it takes and how easy it is to lose your bearing.

Back at the hall, with just the junior Scouts, we reviewed the day over a cold drink and discussed lightweight meals and hike cooking. Normally we would have a 'make your own' meal construction activity, but with conditions as they are, we have individually packaged pasta bolognese 2 ways, dehydrated and boil in the bag. The Scouts were intrigued with the dehydrated mince and it gave them an opportunity to try something new. With camping restrictions in force, Scouts did some night navigation and star gazing before going home to sleep.

Day 2 saw us revisit what we learnt on the trail, offering opportunities to go back over topics and then straight into route planning for their own journeys. Scouts could choose between walking, canoeing and bike hikes with maps available. Mid-morning, Chip joined us to talk about emergencies on hikes, how to respond and what apps, devices and plans we should have in place.

By the end of this day after a large amount of time with our heads in maps, we have 3 bike hikes and 7 walking hikes in planning for the next 6-9 months. How exciting !





Scout 1st Aid courses 2021

Sunday 7th February 2021 - Advanced resuscitation (PAR) and Pain Management at Barra Brui

Saturday 20th February 2021 - Provide First Aid (PR1) for scouts.

Sunday 21st February 2021 - Provide First Aid (PR1) for bushwalkers.

Either of these two days is the first day of the Remote First Aid course (PRS) to be run the following weekend at Barra Brui.

Saturday 27th February 2021 - Day 2 Remote First Aid (PRS)

Sunday 28th February 2021 - Day 3 Remote First Aid (PRS)

These two days are a combined Scout and Bushwalkers course.

Saturday 6th March 2021 - Day 1 Provide First Aid (PR2) at Kingsgrove

Sunday 7th March 2021 - Day 2 Provide First Aid (PR2) at Kingsgrove.

This course is for younger scouts and people who are doing their first, First Aid course.

The team proposes to support the Sirius Cup, Dragon Skin and Scout Hike if they run with less COVID-19 restrictions.

Enquiries: John Crowley 0409 393 215



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/>

Editorial

BRAVO to all the youth members who have contributed articles in this edition of Compass. It is wonderful to know how much you are enjoying your Scouting adventure and for your Leaders to know their support is appreciated.

With the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, we know you are looking forward to an expanded programme of activities, so document everything and take lots of pictures.

Please send submissions for Compass whenever you have something ready. If you miss the current edition we will hold it over for the next one.

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