

SYDNEY NORTH REGION ROVERS

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22



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2021/22 Region Rover Council (RRC) Executive Team

Chairperson

Kacie Turner (Platabeen)

Assistant Chairperson

Daniel Hose (Normanhurst)

Secretary

Sarah Berlecky (Yaralla)

Treasurer

Jason Urquhart (Forest)

Public Relations

Kellie Chilvers (MCMK)

Merchandise Co-ordinator

Robert Sewell (Kissing Point)

Activities Co-ordinator – Social

Ashlin Williams (Forest)

Activities Co-ordinator – Rock/Outdoor

Charlotte Mason (Gordon)

Venturer Liaison

Blade Puckeridge (Normanhurst)

Youth Liaison

Aaron Kew (Forest)

Training Co-ordinator

Kaitlin Strickland (Epping)

Service Co-ordinator

Billie Moran (Normanhurst)

State Rover Council Delegates

Aaron Kew (Forest)

Luke Barnett (Gordon)

Nick Bassett (Normanhurst)

Will Seale (Kananga)

Regional Commissioner – Rovers

Nick Buchner



BADEN POWELL SCOUT AWARD RECIPIENT

Elyse Versace – Kananga Rovers



2021 STAN BALES ROVER SERVICE AWARDEES

Courtney Turner – Platabeen Rovers

Elyse Versace – Kananga Rovers

Kacie Turner
Chair
Platabeen Rovers

'As much as I say I have loved doing this job, so much so I did it twice, I am excited to go back to being just another grassroot Rover. Hope you are all keen to see a new face at the front of meetings in 2021'

Some famous last words that I wrote in my report this time last year, but here we are, still sitting at the front of those meetings!

What an absolute wild ride 2021 was! Writing this report seems surreal after the longest, but also the shortest of years to date.

My term as Chair began on such a high note. We came into this year thinking it would be so much better than the previous year, having in person meetings, less restrictions, and let's not forget, less COVID... but boy were we wrong.

The first six months of my term were pretty mellow, with many of the major events and activities being cancelled one after another - Dragonskin, Scout Hike, Mudbash and Rover Ball to name a few. Following the long weekend in June, we went straight into online Scouting... again, which I am SO impressed and pleased with how well everyone made the transition to! It is incredibly difficult to keep motivated and inspired to participate in online Scouting, but it was fantastic to see how well SNR Rovers were able to adapt to the continuously extending lockdowns.

Whilst struggling through endless lockdown, some good news was announced, where both Courtney Turner and Elyse Versace were awarded the Stan Bales Rover Service Award for their contribution to the Rover Section! A prestigious award, which could not have been awarded to anyone more deserving than them. Sydney North Rovers commend them both on their achievement! During this extended lockdown, Elyse Versace also completed her Baden Powell Scout Award, and huge achievement to receive both in the same year! Also deserving of a mention are the three Rovers from Sydney North and two Units that achieved awards too! Luke Barnett, Kate Canao and Charlotte Mason, all from Gordon, each achieved a Rover Recognition Award, and MCMK and Gordon achieved the Quality Rovering Award, a true testament to how strong our Region is!

During 2021, we unfortunately had to make the decision to put Berowra Rover Unit into a temporary recess, with hopes they will be able to open with a clean plate to be stronger than ever before! With this in mind, we have had many Venturer Units reach out to begin the process to open new Rover Units! This is a huge credit to my fantastic assistant Daniel, with assistance from Nick Buchner! Without these two constantly in my corner, this year would not have been anywhere near as successful as it was!

Following on from a pretty abysmal six months, the later part of 2021 and beginning of 2022 have been nothing but go, go go! As soon as face to face Scouting returned, every Unit was straight back to their usual antics, embedding the mantra #RoversDoStuff! It was fantastic to see how enthused and excited everyone was to get back to regular Rovering, jumping straight back into adventurous activities, Unit camps, 4WD trips, joint nights with younger sections and of course supporting large events that were able to run like 'Claus for a Cause' run by Forest Rovers!

It has been such a rollercoaster of a year and I seriously could not have done this role without the constant support from my Exec Team, who have done the most brilliant job, through possibly the worst year. We survived and we thrived!

I wish all the luck in the world to the incoming Exec; you will smash it!



Daniel Hose
Assistant Chair
Normanhurst Rovers

With the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic finally beginning to decline and the “light at the end of the tunnel” finally able to be seen, it is fantastic to see Sydney North Region Rovers starting to return to some form of normality this year in Rovering. Whilst 2021 was not without its increased level of hiccups and challenges arising from the many snap lock downs, Rovers in Sydney North have continued to buck the trend and get out and about and “do stuff”. As a member of the SNR Executive, I can honestly say it’s been a fantastic year helping lead these Rovers in all things Rovering.



With restrictions easing, Rovers from all Units have started to get back outdoors, and it was amazing to watch all the Rovers of Sydney North make the most of their newfound freedom running many activities, camps, projects and events in order to keep themselves busy. Although many annual staples of the Sydney North Region Calendar such as Normanhurst’s MMT and Turramurra’s Harbour Cruise had to be cancelled due to changing restrictions, other events such as Region Dinners and Unit Camps have seen amazing attendance from all Rovers as they have been finally able to make their long-awaited return after almost two years of delays.

While the overall numbers in Sydney North Rovers have understandably declined in recent years due to the pandemic, to the point where even the long-standing Berowra Rover Unit has been forced into temporary recess, things look brighter in 2022 with a number of different Venturer Units expressing their desire to start up Rover Unit. I’m pleased to report that Lower North Shore District, Asquith, and 1st Hornsby Heights Venturer Units are all in the preliminarily stages of getting Rover Units off the ground in their respective areas with plans in place to begin meetings during 2022 between all prospective members.

Sydney North Region Rovers have continued their success this year and have been recognised in the awards from all Corners of Scouting including:

- Courtney Turner & Elyse Versace Receiving Stan Bales Rover Service Awards
- Mt Colah/Mt Kuring-Gai and Gordon Rover Units Receiving Quality Rover Awards
- Charlotte Mason, Luke Barnett and Kate Canao Receiving Rover Recognition Awards
- Yaralla Rover Unit Receiving Most Improved Unit at the ROSCARS
- Forest Rover Unit Receiving Most Outstanding Unit at the ROSCARS

B-R-A-V-O-O and congratulations to all these recipients on your awards. They are truly well deserved, and you really make this Region proud with all your hard work.

As my term as Assistant Region Chair draws to a close, I would like to extend special thanks to the great executive team that was elected this year. Each one of you has done a fantastic job in your respective roles and, without all your support, things most certainly would not have run as smoothly as they have. A huge thanks, in particular, must be given to the core Executive of Kacie Turner, Jason Urquhart and Sarah Berleky as well as our Regional Commissioner Nick Buchner. Despite all the challenges, world-changing events and craziness that were thrown our way, your constant commitment, effort and determination have been instrumental in ensuring the successful year that Sydney North Rovers have had, and I cannot thank you enough for everything you all have done.

To everyone in Sydney North, thank you for a fantastic year and for everything you have all done to make Rovers the success that it is in Sydney North. Despite many setbacks, you all continued to put your best foot forward and show the Scouting movement why Sydney North Region Rovers are the best! As always, it has been an amazing year, and I look forward to 2022 being even more successful and brighter for the Region.

B-R-A-V-O-O Sydney North and let’s bring on 2022!

Sarah Berlecky

Secretary

Yaralla Rovers

The last year has been tough on everyone, but I am really impressed with how we have all pulled through together. Spending time on the Executive this year has been really rewarding and has been incredibly productive with most events running even if they were in a slightly different format. Moving between online and in-person meetings has helped more people to join in with what is going on in the Region and I hope this inspires more people to sign up in future years.

You really get out what you put in and I know there are some great people in our Region!

We have also seen a move into more Scouting online with changes from how training is delivered through to our email system. I hope this encourages Units to make use of the online facilities and resources available to us. With this we will see even more of a change with how information is stored and accessed which should help with communication and efficiency between the Executive and the Units.

Sadly, I won't be able to continue with the Exec next year, but I am confident that the incoming Executive will build on what this year's Executive has achieved.

If anyone ever needs any help though I am always happy to pitch in!



Jason Urquhart
Treasurer
Forest Rovers



Welcome to my last RRC report after two years as the SNRRC treasurer. It's time to pass the baton onto a new upcoming treasurer!

I'd also like to take some time to thank all my fellow RRC executives, Unit leaders and treasurers for all your efforts over the past two years. I particularly want to say thanks for putting up with my rants and grievances at the current state of affairs of Scouting in NSW.

The RRC recorded a deficit of \$2,370.99 during the period. This figure excludes the Development Fund and merchandise transactions. I have excluded merchandise as the RRC generally incurs costs almost equal to the income we receive in these categories. This is because merchandise is sold at or near cost price.

A simplified income statement taking this into account is provided below:

<u>Simplified Income Statement</u>	Jan 01, 2021 to Dec 31, 2021
<u>Income</u>	<u>Calendar year 2021</u>
Registration Fees - RRC Levies	0.00
Special Activity	\$67.03
Total Income	\$67.03
<u>Expenses</u>	
Major equipment	-\$71.00
Misc Expense	-\$480.05
Leader costs	-\$90.00
RRC BBQs	-\$208.25
Special Activity - CLBAM	-\$500.00
Special Activity - Moot	\$938.38
Square Fees	-\$0.34
Subsidies	-\$150.00
Total Expenses	-\$2,438.02
Net Income	-\$2370.99

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, and minimal expenses incurred by the RRC, we agreed that no RRC levy shall be charged at the start of 2021. As a result of this, the only income received was a \$67 surplus from region dinner/CRAP. As mentioned in previous reports, most of the deficit will be recovered through the 2022 RRC levy.

Unfortunately, Berowra Rovers closed during the year and as a result, the RRC received \$406.70 into the development fund. SRC and RRC Levies as well as a refund in relation to overpaid membership fees will need to be paid out of this amount. In addition, we are in the process of recovering approximately \$3,000 in outstanding membership fees owed by previous members of Berowra. These amounts will be transferred directly into the development fund to be held in trust as per the development fund operational rules.

The Sydney North Region Rover Council financial statements for 2021 are provided below. These statements provide an overview of the finances of the Rover Council.

Financial Statements

<u>Statement of Comprehensive Income</u>	Jan 01, 2021 to Dec 31, 2021	Jan 01, 2020 to Dec 31, 2020
<u>Income</u>	<u>Calendar year 2021</u>	<u>Calendar year 2020</u>
Development Fund - Crew Closures	\$406.70	\$12,660.72
Fundraising - Merch Sales	\$278.00	\$597.30
Misc	\$0.00	\$588.00
Registration Fees - BRC Levies	\$0.00	\$2,116.60
Registration Fees - RRC Levies	\$0.00	\$1,332.00
Special Activity	\$0.00	\$2,090.96
Special Activity - CRAP Region Dinner	\$67.03	\$0.00
Total Income	\$751.73	\$19,385.58
<u>Expenses</u>		
Leader Costs	\$90.00	\$0.00
MAJOR EQUIP/ BUILDINGS	\$71.00	\$319.00
Misc Expense	\$480.05	\$890.95
RRC BBQs	\$208.25	\$25.30
Registration Fees	\$0.00	\$2,116.80
Special Activity - CLBAM	\$500.00	\$0.00
Special Activity - Meeting Prizes	\$0.00	\$15.36
Special Activity - Misc	\$938.38	\$0.00
Square Fees	\$0.34	\$1.51
Square Fees - GST	\$0.00	\$0.15
Subsidies	\$150.00	\$1,065.00
Total Expenses	\$2,438.02	\$4,434.07
Net Income	-\$1,686.29	\$14,951.51

<u>Balance Sheet</u>	<u>Calendar year 2021</u>	<u>Calendar year 2020</u>
Cash - General Funds	\$24,321.10	\$26,369.29
Cash - Development Funds	\$26,049.55	\$25,642.85
Merchandise at cost	\$4,720.00	\$4,998.81
Accumulated Impairment of Merchandise	-\$560.00	-\$560.00
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	\$44.80
Total Assets	\$54,530.65	\$56,485.75

<u>Cash Flow Statement</u>	<u>Calendar year 2021</u>	<u>Calendar year 2020</u>
Starting Balance		
Cash on Hand	\$0.00	\$103.00
Cash - General Funds	\$26,369.29	\$21,099.40
Cash - Development Funds	\$25,642.85	\$12,982.13

Total Starting Balance	\$52,012.14	\$34,184.53
Gross Cash Inflow	\$1,689.50	\$22,801.68
Gross Cash Outflow	\$3,330.99	\$4,974.07
Net Cash Change	-\$1,641.49	\$17,827.61
Ending Balance		
Cash on Hand	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cash - General Funds	\$24,321.10	\$26,369.29
Cash - Development Funds	\$26,049.55	\$25,642.85
Total Ending Balance	\$50,370.65	\$52,012.14

Budget

The 2022 Budget for the year is provided below. The RRC levies will be adjusted at the end of year to cover the actual cost incurred however I expect the amount to be similar to what is budgeted. Please note that we have now begun invoicing the previous years SRC levies alongside RRC levies at the beginning of the year. The RRC levy for the year will be set at the December 2022 RRC meeting.

Item		Notes
RRC Exec Name Bars	\$ 185.00	Based on 2021 amount
RRC BBQs	\$ 300.00	\$50 * 6 RRC meetings
RRC Meeting Prizes	\$ 90.00	Based on estimated \$15 spend *6 (max \$20)
CLBAM	\$ 500.00	Based on 2021 amount
Roventure	\$ 447.00	Actual cost incurred 2022
Region service project BBQ's	\$ 100.00	As per working doc
RRC Annual Report	\$ 62.50	As per quote provided by Kacie
Membership fees for Regional Commissioner + assistant - Rovers	\$ 240.00	As per State
Gift to Auditor	\$ 75.00	Allocated amount to purchase gift
ScoutHike Subsidy	\$ 1,260.00	Based on 21 attending - estimate by Ashlin
MHFAC subsidy	\$ 150.00	Based on 2021 amount
Provision for misc. expenses	\$ 100.00	Estimate
Total RRC income required	\$ 3,509.50	Or approx. \$19 per person

Please note that this budget does not include expenses that are fully covered by participant payments (e.g., CRAP, Merchandise etc). I have not included Summer Moot in the budget as I expect this to either break even or run at a small deficit.

As above, there is approximately \$1,100 in additional spending forecast this year, which is mainly as a result of the ScoutHike subsidy that was approved at the December 2021 RRC meeting. It would be great if the 2022 executive could work together to find a way the region could fundraise together in order to reduce the levy burden on each Unit.

Anyway, that's all for now folks, wishing you all the best with your future endeavours.

***"It's been real. It's been fun. But it ain't been real fun"* - Jason**

Kellie Chilvers
Public Relations Co-ordinator
MCMK Rovers

2021... yet another year of changing restrictions, lockdowns and 'getting back to normal', Sydney North Region Rovers' resilience, perseverance and strength is something to be admired. With events cancelled every other day and weekly nights moved online, the strength and endurance of our Region-wide is to be commended. From the world of PR, change and shifting perspectives has similarly been seen, with the role of Public Relations Officer shifting from the traditional promotion and retention to a task focusing more on inspiration and sharing. This year saw the regular social media posting changed from primarily event promotion and FOMO reports to one of more inspiration and motivation.



Rovers became experts at reinventing their 'traditional' nights to be suitable for online meetings, as this was not our first rodeo, we became more creative in our planning, with a closer focus on 'together apart'. Individual Unit's posting about their nights became key to sharing ideas and keeping us seen in the public.

Instagram continued to be a major focus across this year, with the platform's engagement continuing to follow last year's growth trends. Facebook and Instagram are both extremely popular; however, the younger demographics are beginning to shake up their traditional social media usage. Increasing demand for visual content can be seen, with Facebook becoming more uncommon among Venturers and Scouts. Thus, it can be seen why the need for SNR to build their 'brand' across new and existing platforms is vital. Facebook has proven beneficial for sharing larger chunks of information and even events; however, increasing studies show Instagram is becoming the desired platform for 'mindless scrolling'. Whether that is feed posting or story sharing, a closer focus on Instagram has proved beneficial with reach growing.

I attempted a variety of strategies to increase engagement with the public, and to add some personality to SNR, these included an introduction to the Unit Leaders throughout the Region, and a TikTok challenge. Despite multiple reminders, both of these campaigns were not taken up by many people, likely due to lockdowns, where Units could not gather together and take up these challenges.

Lockdowns and event cancellations threw the concept of platform takeovers into disarray. The idea would have seen a push for Instagram story takeovers by Units running events. This not only allows for more and unique content creation, but similarly, would assist in individual Unit platform traffic as well as a more personal social media experience and relationship for our audiences.

Throughout this year, there has been constant discussion about changing the traditional Compass magazine, which is presented quarterly. While I believe that a new format could increase traffic and become more appealing to youth members (with Rovers included), no further actions have been taken to bring this into reality.

All in all, the year of 2021/22 certainly proved challenging, with the Region PR experiencing no difference. Personally, I would like to thank all SNR members this year for their commitment to Rovers as well as all Exec members for their resilience and general care. Keep posting about those fun and exciting adventures across all your platforms, and don't forget to chuck a cheeky tag this way @sydneynorthrovers!!!

Robert Sewell
Merchandise Co-ordinator
Kissing Point Rovers

Merchandise, much like my predecessor last year, is the first role I have taken in the RRC, and I consider it to be a noticeable difference from holding a role at a Unit level. While face-to-face RRC meetings are back again, the lack of, and continual cancellation of, events like Moots due to COVID have put a noticeable dampener on the ability to make merchandise sales this year. Having said that though, I am happy with the number of purchases made this year by everyone wanting merchandise and believe that there has been a dramatic increase in merchandise sales over the last 12 months.



Also, this year I am happy to say we released our latest piece of merch, our red Rover lanyards, which are another fine addition to our inventory. There have been a whopping 22 sales (*see table 1*) of these lanyards, showing that they are a fine addition.

I hope that the next year will see events return that bring our ability to sell merch even higher than this year, and that the next person that takes the role gives it all they have and gets to as many events as possible!

That's all from me. I wish the best of luck to the Exec of 2022-23.

-Rob

Table 1: Sales numbers between March 28th, 2021, to Feb 24th, 2022

Item	Qty sold	Price EA.	Total
Grey SNR T-shirt	20	\$10.00	\$200.00
Rover stickers	20	\$3.00	\$60.00
Rover sunglasses - yellow	2	\$10.00	\$20.00
Rover lanyards	22	\$7.00 for 1 \$12.00 for 2	\$134.00
Total sales for period	64		\$414.00

Table 2: Current Inventory numbers:

Item	QTY
Grey SNR T-Shirt S	12
Grey SNR T-Shirt M	20
Grey SNR T-Shirt L	45
Grey SNR T-Shirt XL	37
Grey SNR T-Shirt 2XL	12
Grey SNR T-Shirt 3XL	7
Red Polo Shirts S	10
Red Polo Shirts M	3
Red Polo Shirts XL	4
Red Polo Shirts 3XL	3
Red Polo Shirts 10	4
Red Polo Shirts 12	3
Red Polo Shirts 14	14
Red Polo Shirts 16	14
Rover Parking Signs	5
Rover Stickers	1735
Prepare For Fun Stickers	214
Rover Lanyards	31



Ashlin Williams
Activities Co-ordinator – Social
Forest Rovers

In 2022, we had a much more successful year for events! We got the opportunity to run a few events in the Region and many attended events outside our Region too. Although we did have another lockdown that put a spanner in the works for a few of our events, we still prevailed and in 2021 we ran: Roventure: Voyage for a Vaccine, CRAP Region Dinner and a few Unit events, and in 2022 we have already run Roventure: A Monopoly Edition!



Although we have had to adjust a lot with the way that we ran events this year – I believe that all organisers did so with absolute triumph! Roventure was a fantastic success! And Gordon paved the way for a new format of the event that will hopefully continue to bring Venturers and Rovers together for years to come. To the winners and the organisers of the 2022 Edition of Roventure – congratulations on another fantastic event! With over 150 attendees it was a great event that gave Venturers a great opportunity to meet Rovers and get out and about! Congrats to Team 42 on their win!

In 2022 we are also looking forward to the first Moot back after the continuous lockdowns! Noot Noot Winter Summer Moot is brought to you by Normanhurst and Yaralla Rovers and is set to be an amazing event with lots of activities planned to create a winter wonderland themed Summer Moot, unfortunately being postponed due to inclement weather!

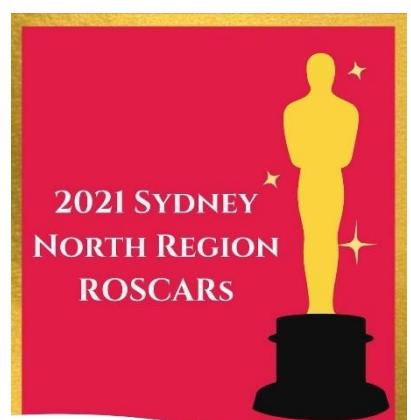
ROSCARS 2021 went ahead this year with 11 out of 11 Units having nominated and voted! These were presented as usual at CRAP Region Dinner, which was delivered in a bit of a different fashion this year as well. It was a success and congratulations to all the winners!

- Most Improved Unit: **Yaralla Rovers**
- Outstanding Unit: **Forest Rovers**
- Outstanding Rover: **Daniel Hose - Normanhurst**
- Best Service Activity: **Bobbin Head Cycle Classic – presented to Nick Bassett**
- Best Activity: **Roventure: Voyage for a Vaccine – Gordon Rovers**

I can only see the events for 2022 getting better as we see restrictions become more adaptable to events and the social life, we all knew and loved! The next social activities co-ordinator can continue adapting events and giving the Region another great reason to get out and see each other!

It has been a pleasure doing this job for the last two years and I send good luck to the next executive!

- Ash



Charlotte Mason

Activities Co-ordinator – Rock/Outdoors

Gordon Rovers

The 2021-2022 year was certainly a challenging one, but I am delighted to share that Sydney North Region Rovers were still able to get out and #dostuff, despite all of the hurdles. This past year saw a solid increase in adventurous activities across the Region – with some Units taking their skills to the next level, and others just starting to get more into the outdoors. I am sure that the upcoming year will be even better still, as more and more Rovers start gaining qualifications, run trips and embrace everything the outdoors has to offer!



2021 started off with a bang – with Rovers from a variety of Units attending the Region canyon course, during which they explored several amazing canyons in the Mount Wilson area. Gordon Rovers also ran an abseiling night and canyon weekend for Rovers from Forest and Platabeen, which saw many of them trying out canyoning for the first time (don't worry – they loved it)! Ex-Rover Harry Day also ran a Sydney North Rockcraft trip to Kanangra over the Easter long weekend. Gordon rovers went along and took their white-water canyoning skills to next level – taking on



some of the biggest and most technical canyons within driving distance of Sydney. With canyoning season unfortunately coming to an end, Rovers from Epping, Turramurra and Gordon started planning for snow season – booking in downhill and cross-country ski trips!

Unfortunately, this epic snow season was not meant to be, with Sydney entering a long and strict lockdown. Although lots of Rovers spent their time walking around their local area, any more exciting activities had to unfortunately be postponed until after lockdown. Another significant hurdle was the Scouting abseil ban, put in place after an abseiling accident in the Blue Mountains. Thankfully, this was removed around the same time that lockdown ended – meaning that Units were completely free to resume adventurous activities once again!

Sydney North Rovers certainly made the most of their freedom, with Units going camping, swimming, hiking, canyoning and white-water kayaking! I ran another Region canyoning trip – which saw Rovers from Forest and Gordon tackle some amazing new Mount Wilson canyons. This momentum continued over the summer – with Units from all around the Region getting outdoors and going away on lots of camps.

Over the summer, the Sydney North Rockcraft team went on a canyoning trip to Victoria and were joined by a few Gordon Rovers. This was an amazing trip that really took the Rovers' skills to the next level and allowed them to explore a completely new canyoning area.

Meanwhile in Canberra, other Gordon Rovers went white water kayaking and took on some of the most challenging trips in this area!



Back in the Blue Mountains, Turramurra Rovers went on a canyon weekend run by Harry Day, and I ran yet another Region canyon trip which consisted of Forest Rovers descending Yileen, a beautiful canyon with a 60m abseil overlooking the Grose Valley! Gordon continued to advance their skills in white water canyoning and went on weekends to the Blue Mountains and Kanangra, taking on some of the most difficult canyons in the Region. I am sure that this momentum will continue over the next few months (as long as it doesn't rain!), and we will see some more epic trips from Units all around the Region!

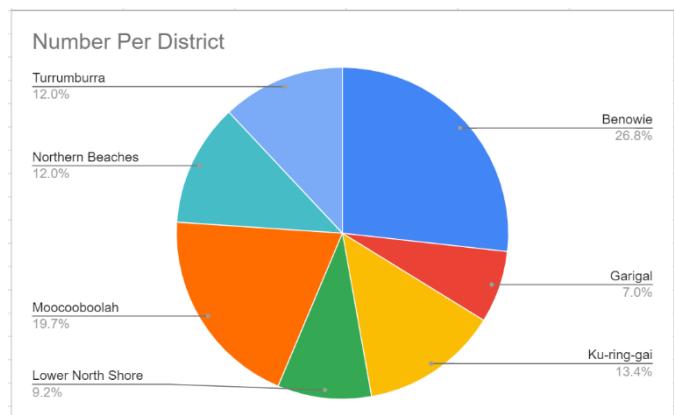
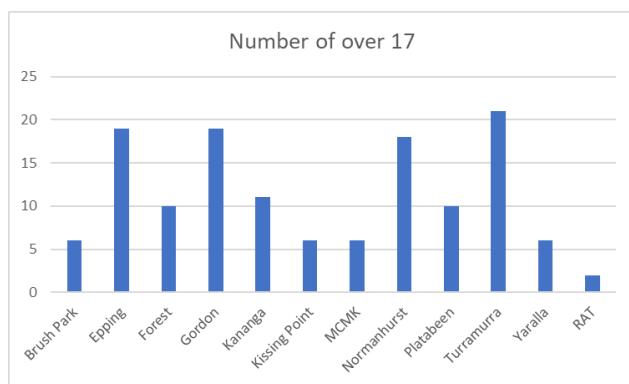
Over the course of the year – several Rovers from around the Region have also been working towards their adventurous activities' qualifications. In 2021, Charlotte Mason achieved her abseil/canyon guide, and Luke Barnett obtained his white-water kayaking guide. Milly Raffle is also well on her way to becoming a canyon/abseil guide. Sydney Rockcraft Team has also begun training promising candidates that are on their way to achieving their canyoning Trained Participant qualification, and Rovers from Epping, Forest and Gordon are among this group. I am looking forward to these Rovers increasing their technical skills and achieving their qualifications, thereby allowing them to run trips for their own Units, and ultimately resulting in more Rovers in the outdoors!

Blade Puckeridge
Venturer Liaison Officer
 Normanhurst Rovers

What a year it's been! It has been great seeing the amazing activities and adventures Rovers have been doing with their Venturer Units (even over Zoom). With the great success of Roventure 2021 and Roventure 2022, it shows how well the relations have been between the sections over the last 12 months!

With Dragonskin coming up very soon, it is a great time to go to your Venturer Units and motivate them to go to the first one in 3 years! Whilst providing a great opportunity to strengthen your connection with your local Units through some great activities.

We have around 134 upcoming Venturers within the next year (or two). With Turramurra, Epping, and Gordon receiving the highest amounts.



Whilst this only shows the numbers of Venturers within the Movement, it is great to hear the numerous people who have joined the Rover section who haven't even heard of or thought about joining Rovers!

All Units will receive a final update on their upcoming Venturers so please reach out to them and invite them to nights, and even reach out to ex-Venturers that may have left due to Year 12 and/or the HSC as they may be enticed by the idea of coming back to the best Scouting section...Rovers.

Here's to another awesome year of Rovering and strengthening connections with the Venturer section!

- Blade

Aaron Kew
Youth Liaison Officer
Forest Rovers

Due to the ongoing and ever-looming fear of 2021 COVID-19, events and especially Rover-youth events, were slow with some of the major youth linking events being cancelled last year. I thought it might be fun to run through some of the great events that were cancelled last year. We started the year off with the cancellation of ScoutHike, the major Scout linking event for Sydney North Scouts and Rovers, where we operate both a sleep point and activities but also have several Rovers helping at other Districts' sleep points. Another large-scale event that did not run was State Rally, one of the largest Scout events run by Scouts NSW every year, and if you thought the Scout section didn't have it bad enough, their Jamboree was also cancelled which was supposed to be at the start of this year. So yeah, the main events for youth engagement with the Rover section have kind of been quite abysmal last year. However, from the sounds of it, ScoutHike is going full steam ahead, so I encourage you all to get your Units involved in this!



Although the bummer of last year (COVID) got us down, that didn't mean we did no youth linking events, with several events still occurring. In May, a couple of Rovers and I got together and attended the SNR Cub Outdoor Adventurer Skills Day. We got heaps of positive feedback for this and had great conversations with both Cubs and Leaders about Rovers in the Region and some of the stuff we get up to and advising them of what Rover Units are around them. We also had lots of joint nights go ahead, with both online and in-person events. To those Rover Units who ran events for this, I want to thank you and I'm sure these younger sections and the Leaders enjoyed seeing you and enjoyed the nights you ran.

I was also able to attend lots of meetings with section leaders, both at a Regional, District and Group level through attending Mindaris, Pouch meetings, and just general email and phone communication. These meetings were very informative and gave me ideas of how Rovers can better help their section and allow me to identify big holes in the interaction between the sections and our section.

One of these large gaps was the knowledge of what Rover Units were around them. This was where one of the main projects for this year was developed. The Youth Link-up List was inspired by the Venturer Link-up List and my habit of taking on things that are way too big and becoming obsessed with a spreadsheet. Through careful mapping consulting and analysis, a Group link-up list was created. This list aimed to let Scout Groups be aware of what Rover Units were in their area. This list is mainly intended as a guide and does not mean that these Rover Units are the only ones that can get involved with the Group, nor that those Groups members have to go to that Rover Unit. A copy of this should be available soon on the website and should also be distributed soon as well to all sections.

Overall, I would like to thank those people who have assisted me this year, invited me along to meetings and had discussions with me about how my role can work within their section.

Peace Out
Aaron Kew

Kaitlin Strickland
Training Co-ordinator
Epping Rovers

This year has been an interesting year to say the least. It has also been a relatively challenging year to try and get some people trained on the old system and get the region to adapt to the new training system. It has been interesting in trying to get the Region to adapt to the new training system while in lockdown.

This year, with training, there was a focus on the new curriculum as it was being changed. As there was no State Training Officer, a lot of the Region Training Officers were left to their own devices to navigate this change in system. SNR was able to prevail and adapt to the new system.

There were a few training courses at the start of the year prior to the lockdown which people were able to jump onto. There were also a few online courses that were available. There were a few people that were able to get trained and potentially become Unit Leader. There are a lot more courses that are coming up in April and later on in the year for people to get trained.

It was good to see so many people trying to finish their training before the curriculum changed over. I also look forward to hearing about the experiences when more people start to begin on the new curriculum. If people are now wanting to be trained, it will have to be done on the new system.

Due to the change in training curriculum, everyone that was doing their training had to complete the training before the end of 2021. The BPS and BOS have been discontinued, which has been mentioned all year. Scouting Essentials is replacing the BPS course, and Scouting Management is replacing BOS. Scouting adventure is the alternative for the Scouting Management course, however, Scouting Adventure is more aimed at people who are new to the Movement. Then the On-the-Job training will be completed as a replacement for your In-service.

A training night was completed in August / September. This went over the new curriculum and how to get trained on the new system. The video was put up on our Region page, so everyone can look back on and go over this. This was an interactive session for Units to ask any questions that they may have in regard to becoming Unit Leader.

I wish the best for the incoming Training Officer and the rest of the 2022-23 Exec, and I am happy to be a resource for understanding the new system.

Kaitlin.



Billie Moran
Service Co-ordinator
Normanhurst Rovers

Although COVID delivered us another stop-start year, Units across the Region got out and about and stuck into Service. Along with great individual efforts from Units, the two highlights of the Service calendar this year were the Region's combined efforts at the Red Cross Lifeblood Challenge and annual Region Service Project.

Between August and October, Rovers in our Region made 55 donations to Lifeblood, saving 165 lives, and placing us 4th in the challenge nationally. This year's Region Service Project was a series of bush care workshops, organised in collaboration with Ku-ring-gai Council's bushland management team.



On the 27th of November 2021 and 5th of February 2022, Rovers got involved with helping ecosystems in their own backyard, spending the day clearing invasive weeds and planting native shrubs. Both sessions were a great time and supported by all Units in the Region bar one, although attendance was down on previous years. Hopefully we can push that up in 2022. Overall, I'm happy, and I hope others in the Region enjoyed a bit of a different vibe to previous projects—even if I did forget the hotplates for the obligatory post-project sausage sizzle on day two (oops).

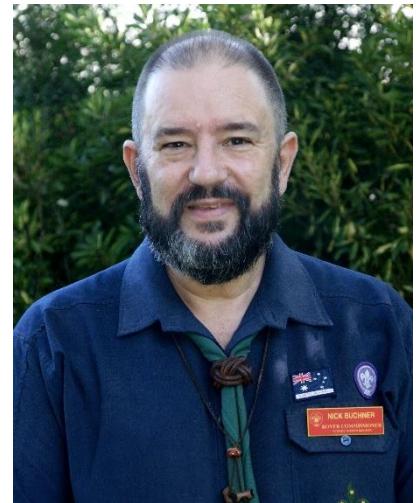
Billie Moran



Nick Buchner
Regional Commissioner – Rovers

After reporting twelve months ago of the challenges presented in 2020, I think we all hoped 2021 would be different. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be, with several months of lockdown and a whole range of activities having to be cancelled or postponed.

However, Rovers again rose to the challenge of keeping things ticking-over, and there's been a pleasing level of activity in the past few months since restrictions were eased, with a range of camps, 4WD trips, canyoning, road trips, and more.



Aside from our local activities, there was also the disappointment of the 16th World Moot in Ireland being cancelled, after initially being rescheduled. The challenge now is to generate excitement for the 17th World Moot, to be held in Portugal in 2025. This will no doubt flow on from strong Sydney North participation in the 22nd Australian Rover Moot – “Apple Isle Moot” – being held in Tasmania at the end of this year.

Despite the limitations of the pandemic, service continued to play an important part in the Region. Support for ANZAC Day, and grounds maintenance at Barra Brui and West Epping halls continued. Sydney North made an outstanding contribution to the National Rover Plasma Challenge, as the top Region in NSW, plus Yaralla, Normanhurst, and Forest all being placed in the national top ten. It was great to see our annual Region Rover Service Project with an environmental focus, with two sessions of bush regeneration and tree-planting undertaken with support from Ku-ring-gai Council.

The past year has also seen several former Rovers return to take up Rover Adviser positions. My particular thanks to them all, for agreeing to provide support, advice, and guidance for our Rovers, in an environment where the RA role is as valuable as ever.

After a couple of years as RRC Secretary, Kacie Turner from Platabeen Rovers stepped up to the challenge of leading the RRC Exec team, and did an excellent job as Chair, under difficult circumstances.

My congratulations to Courtney Turner from Platabeen and Elyse Versace from Kananga, on being presented with the prestigious Stan Bales Rover Service Award, recognising their outstanding and sustained contributions to our section. Additional congratulations to Elyse on also achieving her Baden-Powell Scout Award during the year.

Many thanks as always, to everyone who has contributed to the ongoing high standard of Rovering in Sydney North and good work to those who received other achievement or recognition awards or contributed to the successful organisation of events and activities.

I look forward to the year ahead and working with the new Exec team to support the Rovers of Sydney North. It's always gratifying to see a mix of experience and fresh enthusiasm in the elected team, and I'm sure the 2022/23 year will be no different.

Yours in Rovering,

Nick Buchner
Regional Commissioner - Rovers

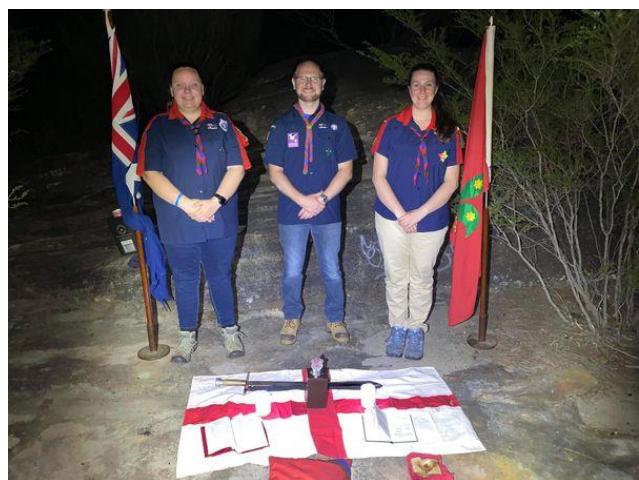


Brush Park Rovers

Unit Leaders – Naomi Butler & Elyse Versace

2021 was the year Brush Park Rovers started their comeback! Under the expert leadership of Naomi and Elyse (who transferred in from Forest and Kananga Rovers respectively), they began the familiar and rewarding task of rebuilding this once mighty Rover Unit.

Under the guidance of our new Rover Adviser, Matthew Rath, we began sorting out all of the paperwork, taking control of the Unit finances and clearing all debts that the Unit had accumulated. We spent many hours cleaning out the den and more, resulting in a clean slate for our new Rovers to create their own Rover Unit.



The focus of the newly formed Unit was to create and strengthen our relationship with the 1st Brush Park Group and their Venturer Unit. We did this by meeting with the Brush Park Venturer Unit weekly and were able to get in a few face-to-face meetings, such as making hand sanitiser and wide games nights before COVID-19 lockdowns struck again. We did not let this deter us as we continued to meet weekly with Brush Park Venturers online, enjoying games nights and cooking nights with too much cheese.... As well as completing an online Scavenger Hunt with Turramurra Rovers and an informative Wildlife First Aid night with Kananga Rovers

and Brush Park Venturers.

Once we were able to meet face-to-face again, we enjoyed linking more with the other Rover Units by participating in inter-Unit camps with Forest and Platabeen Rovers. We also became more involved with the other sections of 1st Brush Park Group, including meeting with the Group Council, Group Committee, playing laser tag at Code Red with Brush Park Scouts and Venturers and attending the Brush Park Group Christmas Party.



We reached out to the previous members of Brush Park Rovers to learn a little more about the previous traditions and history of the Unit. The previous members came together and held a traditional Investiture, led by Matthew, for Naomi and Elyse to be officially welcomed into the fold of Brush Park Rovers.



Our members were active within the Sydney North Region Rover Council, having 100% attendance at almost all of the meetings, attended C.R.A.P Region Dinner, and the Sydney North Region Rover Service Project. Brush Park Rovers were represented on the NSW Rover Council as Naomi was also their Executive Officer - Activities.

2021 also saw our members achieve goals in their own personal Rovering journeys and we are so happy and proud of what they have achieved. Naomi achieved the St George Award on the old Award Scheme. Elyse was awarded a Stan Bales Rover Service Award for five years of outstanding and continued service to the Rover Section, and also achieved her Baden-Powell Scout Award on the old Award Scheme.

2021 saw the slate wiped clean ready for a new generation of Brush Park Rovers. Looking to 2022, we are excited to start building relationships with Ermington Venturers, continuing our relationship with Brush Park Venturers, and seeing our Unit grow.

Keep an eye on Brush Park Rovers as we become bigger and better in 2022!



Epping Rovers
Unit Leader – Tymon Domanko

This year has been a challenge for Epping Rovers. Epping was hit relatively hard by COVID as it put a stopper in our plans that aimed to help grow the Unit. However, we are still here, showing just how resilient we are. It has been interesting to see how our Unit has changed due to the circumstances that we have had to get through.

Throughout the year we continued to deal with going in and out of COVID lockdowns, which unfortunately negatively affected our regular attendance. We also had multiple people move out of Sydney which has drained a significant amount of experience from the Unit. However, as 2021 began to come to a close, and with the start of 2022 we have seen a number of new faces start attending which has brought a sense of energy to the Unit. We also began to strengthen our connections with our feeder Venturer Units. These included but not limited to running chalk chases and kayaking nights with our Venturers. We hope that this sense of adventure with our Venturer Units may bring more new faces to our Rover Unit.



We have also had many exciting activities throughout the year. These nights included Cardines, Dungeons and Dragons, Ballista/Trebuchet building, Various night hikes, cooking nights, bridge building and testing, online debate night and a few kayaking nights. These nights were able to help us stay together as much as possible, despite being apart physically due to restrictions. Despite Dragon Skin being cancelled (again) we were still able to implement our base idea at the Hunter & Coastal Roventure. We are very thankful for them inviting us to come up with our Venturers and have a fun

weekend away.

This year, Epping Rovers got to see our long-standing Rover Adviser, Andy, being given his Silver Koala Service Award, which is an amazing achievement. Epping Rovers were also there to help with the reopening of the Epping Group boatshed that we are thrilled for, as it allows us to undertake water activities such as kayaking and canoeing. Epping has also been very busy in organising and planning our Centenary, which is coming up within the next few months. We are very excited about this upcoming milestone.

This year, nor the last two years, has not been easy on anyone. Epping is very thankful, and appreciative for those who were able to support the Unit during this time. These times, as we all knew, would either make or break different groups. Epping has certainly been remade as the times have changed.



I look forward to seeing where the Unit goes in the coming year. 2022-23 should be an amazing year for Epping and I hope to see the Unit thrive.

I trust that the new executive will lead the Unit to a brighter place.

Tymon.



Forest Rovers
Unit Leader – Aaron Kew

Once again, the “Biggest Small Rover Unit Around” has had another great year of growth and success! We said goodbye to some old faces and hello to some new ones. Like most Units in our Region and the State, our year has been one of ups and downs with the fluidity of both rules from Scouts NSW and those from the NSW



Government. This involved changing plans literally on the night of the event. I would like to thank everyone who was very understanding and running very interesting activities during this time such as trivia nights, murder mystery nights, cooking nights, Bob Ross nights, and much more.

With Forest really embedding the New Youth Program into our framework, our ceremonies and procedures have been updated and I really want to thank the Unit for coming onboard so easily with this and fully embracing the use of Scout Terrain and the New Youth Program in general. The implementation of this has really allowed our Unit to explore a lot more of the program, with us really getting much deeper into outdoor activities such as canyoning, abseiling and rock climbing. Shout out to Charlotte and Gordon

Rovers, and several other people for allowing our Unit to get so involved into these activities. But of course, no Rover Unit can get the “Outstanding Unit” Roscar with only focusing on the outdoor section of the program, and as such, we have also expanded our range of programs into all other sections with activities like Ingleside service, MasterChef, and wellbeing and mental health nights.

Even when the not to be mentioned virus saw us not be able to meet face-to-face, we still had a memorable set of nights, with one of them even taking out the best run Unit night of last year... the

Western-themed murder mystery night hosted over zoom by Ash Williams. Other online nights that were particularly memorable were trivia with our local Venturer Units, a joint night with Yaralla and much, much more!

Don’t let the mention of restrictions let you think we didn’t do as much camping and going away as possible either. We had several Unit camps to the Blue Mountains, where we did activities such as 4WDing, bushwalks, and canyoning. We also took a Unit Camp over Easter to Coonabarabran, where we enjoyed the stargazing capital of Australia, by you guessed it, stargazing, and visiting several observatories in our time up there. We also got to try out some of the local cuisine when our dinner didn’t go quite to plan...

We were also lucky enough to be able to squeeze in our annual Claus for A Cause, which was one of the first large-scale Rover events to run last year. I would like to





personally thank Ash Williams for heading this Project Patrol (see using new terminology and everything told you we embraced it!) It was a great event once again, and we raised over \$1,800 for Youth Off the Streets. Overall, Claus for a Cause was once again a great success and get ready for next year's event (the first Friday of December!)

The new year saw two of our members go down to Surf Moot run by Rovers Victoria, and can I say it was definitely a "memorable" event! From the huge rains, a little bit of COVID sprinkles into the mix, and some other

unmentionable events we would rather forget, this event was a lot of fun, and we would definitely recommend everyone goes next year, even if it did end up with us having to spend a week in isolation.

With a jam-packed year, we decided why not run one of the Region's major events, the event in question being Roventure: Monopoly Edition. The Unit worked extra hard to get this event together, with a big shout out to the Project Patrol (Lachlan Catto, Aidan Brisebois, Emily Marsden, Daniel Atkinson and myself) for organising that and getting together such a great activity. I believe everyone had a great time and that it was a very good event.

At the end of this year, I would just like to thank the Unit Exec for all they have done throughout the year! We definitely couldn't have gotten through the year without you, between me going into hospital for two weeks, and people having COVID, you created a great atmosphere and network of support and I thank you for your commitment and the time you have dedicated to the Unit 😊



Anyway, here's to another great year in 2022!

Aaron Kew

Gordon Rovers
Unit Leader – Luke Barnett

Over the course of 2021-2022 at 2nd Gordon, we made it our mission to make the best of another year plagued by lockdowns. We managed to fundraise and participate in service, do joint activities with our feeder Units, have an awesome weeknight program, and of course, countless incredible weekends away canyoning, white water kayaking and camping.



Although we lost one member during the lockdown, the past year saw overall, a significant increase in Unit members. As of writing this report, we have gained seven members from feeder Units, returning members and transfers from TGW, and expect another six to submit YA1 forms in the next few weeks. These additional members will bring our official membership to 22 by the end of March.



Obviously, the activity that we are best known for is canyoning; an activity that the past year was full of! We started 2021 with a weekend in Kanangra, offering a high-flow white water canyoning workshop to our more experienced members. Everyone who attended learnt a lot and were frothing to get back to Kanangra to tackle the bigger canyons. We did just that over the Easter long weekend, with Tim, Milly, Charlotte, Luke, and future member Nat tackling Kanangra Main and Danae Brook –

two stunning, big and high-flow canyons after a bit of Easter rain.

The following weekend in April 2021, we took Forest and Platabeen Rovers down some Mt Wilson canyons. For many, it was one of their first canyoning experiences, but with the help of Gordon Rovers, it was safe and fun for everyone involved.

More recently in the 2021-2022 summer season, we smashed through a super-secret South Coast canyon, not-so-secret Bungonia canyon, as well as another trip



to Kanangra. Several weekends in the Blue Mountains saw us run Clastral, Butterbox, Whungee Wheengee, Empress and Jugglers (in flood!) as well as two more trips guiding Forest and Turramurra Rovers down some Mt Wilson canyons.



Rovers from Gordon also helped 2nd Gordon Venturer Leader David Fisher, run multiple white water kayaking courses for the Region, as well as the Gordon Venturer end of year activity, which consisted of Grade 2 paddling on the Murrumbidgee. On both days, after guiding the Venturers down the river, we continued down the Class 3 “Red Rocks Gorge” section, which was at a challenging, but very fun, level.



Another highlight of the year was a standing Unit camp in May, in the Watagans, where we did some four-wheel driving and camp oven cooking. We also went camping in December at Avoca, where we hung out at the beach as our first get-away after the lockdown.

Unfortunately, the lockdown put a stopper in all of our winter season plans, but we are very hopeful that we will be able to get down to the snow this year. The Unit is looking forward to a cross-country ski weekend, snow camping and ice climbing

at Blue Lake, as well as a downhill weekend at Perisher (only one year late!).

Our service this year has consisted of helping at the Gordon Joeys fundraiser to pay for little PFDs, helping at the Bobbin Head Cycle race, mowing the lawn at Barra Brui Hall and clearing some trees at Ingleside.

In terms of fundraising, we ran a successful Bunnings BBQ in April, and had detailed plans for a trivia night in September which was unfortunately cancelled due to the lockdown.

The trivia night was intended to raise funds for a Rover trip to New Zealand, which was meant to happen over January–February 2022, but unfortunately has had to be postponed due to closed borders. Hopefully we will be able to get over there soon, and do some canyoning, hiking and white-water kayaking all over the South Island.

Some of our favourite Tuesday night activities over the past year included canoe polo at Northbridge Baths, an escape room, indoor rock climbing, abseiling off the cliffs at Manly, night kayaking at Bobbin Head and Bob Ross painting nights.



Overall, our members feel that they had a great year of Rovering and are looking forward to riding this momentum through 2022 and 2023, which I'm sure will be packed with some bigger international trips, more epic canyoning and kayaking trips, a variety of skiing weekends, as well as Moots and fundraising events!



Kananga Rovers
Unit Leader – Nathan Butler

2021 saw Kananga get off to a slow start. Due to lockdown, late January would be where we saw Kananga's return to in-person gatherings and meetings. During this time, we had quite a range of nights run and a number of new people participating and seeking to join Rovers.

Come February, we would start going to our feeder Venturer Units to gauge interest in Roventure, of which we ended up being somewhat successful, getting a handful of Venturers actively participating on the day and having a great time exploring the city. During this time, we'd also start the process of introducing a new communication and method of organisation for the Unit by creating a Discord server. This would go onto

become quite a useful resource in organising upcoming events and keeping records of our program.

In March we'd see our AGM and organise the roles so that no member would need to hold multiple positions. This is primarily due to the growth we saw at the backend of last year. Definitely a proud achievement for Kananga.

During this same period, we'd also start getting more involved in inter-Unit and other joint activities with our feeder Venturer Units. Some of the activities we did include, the Bobbo Cycle Service Project, a canyon

weekend, and a joint night which included three of our feeder Venturer Units at once, competing head-to-head, and we did a hike over Easter with some ex-Kananga members.

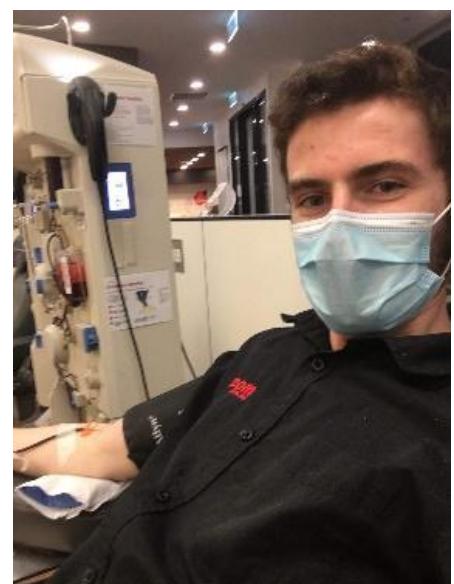
We also had plans for an inter-Unit camp planned with Turramurra and Forest, though this would later get cancelled along with our own planned Unit camp due to another lockdown.

During this next lockdown, we tried to make the best of it. We would try to have a diverse range of games and things to do and try online, including a cocktail night, a joint cooking night with Kissing Point and lots and lots of games, including 50 card Uno. Though none topped our favourite, Minecraft scavenger hunts.

Coming out from lockdown, we would prioritise a fun program with fallback plans of online games just in case, leaving our planned Unit Camp to be postponed until further notice.

We would eventually start participating in region activities again, including the blood drive, CRAP Region Dinner and Claus for a Cause.

This would also put us at the end of our year, where we'd celebrate with a meal at the Belrose Bowling Club.



Next year we aim to further engage our Venturers, starting the year off right, with Roventure. On top of that, we hope that we can finally show members of our Unit what a Moot is and also to finally put our Unit camp planning to use and get out in the wilderness.

Good luck everyone in 2022, Kananga are definitely looking forward to it!



Kissing Point Rovers
Unit Leader – Lachlan Painter

2021 started off on a high for Kissing Point Rover Unit, with face-to-face meetings continuing, the Unit made the most of every opportunity and started with a wide variety of activities including learning about how bikes work with Gordon Rovers through to many creative arts nights.



Being able to attend face-to-face activities again provided many opportunities for Kissing Point Rovers to get out and about to be able to perform all kinds of service such as the annual ANZAC Day Parade, as well as opportunities to build our relations with the younger sections of Scouting through activities such as a science night with the 2nd Turramurra Cubs.



With a new generation of Rovers passing through Kissing Point, motivation was at its peak, with members embarking upon many camping adventures, and fundraising for causes such as the push-up challenge for mental health, which “in 2021 The Push-Up Challenge raised an incredible \$9 million to help The Push For Better Foundation, Headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation and Lifeline Australia run vital mental health programs and save lives” as per the push-up challenge website. Our own Rovers raised an overall \$1,049 in the month of June, a fantastic effort from Tom, Toby, Pat and one of our ex-Rovers Fiona.

The second half of 2021 saw another short interruption of face-to-face meetings, and the resuming of online meetings with further COVID lockdowns. But Kissing Point was ready for any adversary and continued to operate with many more Zoom-based meetings, as well as inter-section meetings online, with activities like trivia and origami nights.

As Australia started to phase back to the new post-COVID world, Kissing Point Rovers got out of their chairs and stretched their legs with some yoga, as well as occasional Unit visits to the beach, where there were smiles even if a few sore muscles.



As 2021 rounded up, and we flowed through to 2022, we got around to some formalities such as awarding our ex-Rover Maddy with her long-awaited Baden-Powell Scout Award on behalf of the Unit.

Additionally, 2022 also saw an addition to the Rover Unit with the investiture of Freya. We hope she finds adventure in all that she does in her Rovering career.

Finally, 2021-2022 saw the official farewell period of Malcolm ‘Rocket’ Yates, our longstanding Rover Adviser. From welcoming Robbo Haylock as our probationary Rover Adviser, to the ceremonious farewell gathering for Rocket, which saw Scouting members both near and far come to recognise the magnificent efforts Rocket has provided to the Unit for over 25 years.

As it is my final year as Unit Leader, and final year in Rovers, it has been great to see the Unit grow back from the ground up over the past few years, and I hope that all the current Unit members will strive for adventure and creating a positive influence on the world in everything they do.

And most importantly that they know... life's better with a bit of tongue!

Yours in Rovering,

Lachlan Painter



Mount Colah/Mount Kuring-Gai (MCMK) Rovers Unit Leader – Kellie Chilvers

We began the year with a booting for two of our oldest Unit members, Max and Angus. They were wise and valuable members of our Unit and we've missed them this year! We then embarked on a great adventure to Jervis Bay for a Unit camp over easter (RIP Dragon Skin), where we made lots of memories and generally grew closer as a Unit. It was amazing to have all the current Unit members at the camp, whether it be for a short time or for the entire camp.

After some more time of normal Scouts, including fruit ninja, learning new skills and hanging out together, we were tossed back into lockdown and online Scouting. We continued to have our weekly meetings, trying out online



painting nights, murder mysteries and escape rooms - we are definitely experts at Zoom activities now!

Throughout the year we have welcomed many new Unit members - Stephen and Griffin coming from Normo Rovers, Sam from East Wahroonga Venturers, Laurence from Waitara Venturers, Lashay, Astrid, Joel and Olivia from Hornsby Heights Venturers, as well as Rhys and Marco from the street. We have loved seeing our Unit grow and we hope you guys enjoy your time with us!

We managed to fit in some service into our program this year, participating in two Region Service projects, as well as putting in a veggie patch and garden at Beecroft Buddies Childcare Centre.

One of the big passions within the Unit is Hornsby Gang Show. Some of our Unit members are involved in some aspect of the show – that being as cast members performing on stage, being part of the production team or multiple areas in the backstage department. Through Gang Show, we are able interact and build relations with other sections of the Scouting movement and teach the youth members in many aspects of stagecraft and technical behind the scenes skills. Unfortunately, due to COVID, in 2021 only two shows were performed, and many of the Unit missed out on seeing the show, but we're looking forward to the show in 2022!



We were proud to be awarded a Quality Rovering Award, being one of three Units presented with this award across the state. This award highlights our growth and commitment to Scouting as a Unit, and it is great to be recognised as we try to improve!

We ended the year with the first Region event of the year, Claus for a Cause by Forest Rover Unit! We had a great night visiting some venues in the city, and seeing our friends from around the Region, as well as raising some much-needed funds for this year's charity, 'Youth Off the Streets'.





We have tried to maintain our relationships with other Units and sections, we hosted an online trivia night for Gordon Rovers, as well as a Minute to Win It night for Waitara/East Wahroonga Venturers.

We have had a great year of Rovering, despite lockdowns and other restrictions, and can't wait to see what next year throws at us!

Normanhurst Rovers
Unit Leader – Nick Bassett

There's no denying that 2021 was a tough year for the 2nd Normanhurst Rover Unit. Coming into 2021, Normo was optimistic that we would be able to return to some level of normality. Like everyone else, we thought that we'd be able to go back to doing those activities that define our time in Normo: Unit camps, Moots, Dragonskin, Venturer nights, service activities, Bunnings BBQs, outdoor adventurous activities, and that constant of the Normo calendar, the Magical Mystery Tour (MMT). However, it eventuated into a year that tested all of us in many personal ways, as the activities that we looked forward to were being cancelled left, right and centre. Transitioning back into lockdown, we readjusted our livelihoods and our program, as Normo Rovers tried to keep itself going as best it could through what was a very tough time. Nevertheless, we must still celebrate the successes of 2021 where we can.



We began the year with a New Year's camp in the Barrington Tops National Park. It was exciting to be able to travel a bit further out of Sydney to experience a wonderful example of our natural environment, with its picturesque landscape, expansive valleys, and beautiful walks, and as a reminder of where Scouts belong, in the bush. While we all agreed that the camp should have been longer, we had the weather on our side and is certainly somewhere that we would go back to in the future. Next was our Australia Day Weekend camp where we soaked up the sun, swam in the ocean and counted down to the Triple J Hottest 100. With our traditional Easter commitment of Dragonskin cancelled, Normo took up the opportunity to organise another camp, this time based at Bomaderry in the Shoalhaven region of NSW.

Between relaxing at the beach or going around to see the sites, Normo spent a day at Jamberoo Action Park where we ran into the Platabeen Rovers and had a great time together. We put our chef's hat on for a MasterChef night with Asquith Venturers and were judged by Asquith's finest culinary experts. We also had a blast at Roventure, sailing around Sydney Harbour with our fellow pirates from Hornsby Heights, Normanhurst and Asquith Venturer Units. Our wheelchair basketball night with the Hornsby Heights and Normanhurst Venturer Units was a real hoot, and a great way to get to know our future Rovers while playing a really fun sport. Normo is known for being a large Unit, but after a Capture the Flag wide game at Bobbin Head, we had a mass investiture and formally welcomed ten Rovers and our RA into our Unit!

Back at the Normo hall, one of the year's highlights was our inter-Unit Pat Pets 'n Paint night. Bringing together over 40 Rovers from all across the Sydney North Region, including those from MCMK, Turramurra, Yaralla, Kissing Point and Forest. We had the privilege of meeting our fellow Rovers' pet dogs, the occasional lizard and pet rocks, and dressing them up in unique costumes and painting some very good self-portraits of best friends. We said congratulations to the new Normo Rovers who achieved their Queen Scout Awards and Baden-Powell Scout Awards, in what certainly would have been a challenging few years, so BRAVOOO! Two Normo Rovers were also awarded the Sydney North Region's ROSCARs for "Outstanding Rover," and "Best Service Activity" having organised



and been responsible for co-ordinating over 40 SNR Rovers to volunteer and assist in the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic as the Region Service Project. Claus for a Cause was also a great way to raise funds for Youth Off the Streets, run by Forest Rovers!



Normanhurst Rovers believes that Service should play an important part in our program. Luckily, we could attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the Hornsby cenotaph in person, with a group of our Rovers also present in the Hornsby Gang Show choir to assist in the musical proceedings of the service. We were also very proud to have two of our Rovers hold the banner for the Vendetta Veterans for the ANZAC Day march in the city. We had a large presence volunteering for the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic and a smaller group helping in the

Go for Broke Cycle, as well as giving a hand packing up at the Lifeline Bookfairs. All in order to fundraise important funds for Lifeline and suicide prevention in what has been a very challenging time for many.

The July lockdown certainly proved a challenge as we tried to maintain motivation and an exciting program. However, we were still able to be “Spirited Away” with a Netflix watch party, “Teach Nick Mafia” with the Turramurra Rovers, try our hand at finding our inner thespian with online theatre sports, play some Kahoots with the Normanhurst Venturers and team up with the Hornsby Heights Venturers to put our thinking caps on and make our way through some Escape Rooms.

It's very true to say that all of us at Normo were very disappointed to have to cancel our RuPaul's Drag Race Magical Mystery Tour again this year. We were so keen to see all of you sashaying your way down the runway in all manner of costumes, makeup and drag. But sadly, the tea was not able to be. We hope that you will be able join us at MMT 2022 in September. This also goes to those Rovers who'd put in all that work to get Gang Show going for 2021 yet had to be cancelled so early in the season.

Moving into the new year of 2022, Normo felt a new kind of freedom and optimism that we hadn't felt in a long time. So, we came out guns blazing, with what is almost becoming a tradition of beginning the year with a big inter-Unit activity. Our Reptile Night brought in just as many Rovers from across the Region's Units as well as Venturers from Hornsby Heights, Normanhurst and Brush Park. We all learnt so much about turtles, hissing cockroaches, pythons and lizards, and taking a photo of ourselves holding them just made it that much better. Normo went back to Anna Bay for our annual Australia Day Weekend Hottest 100 Countdown beach camp, helped out with bush regeneration for the Region Service Project, and ran two Coin Toss Car Rallies with Hornsby Heights and Normanhurst Venturers to get them pumped and ready for Roventure.

Normo was super excited to be partnering up with Yaralla Rovers, to run Noot Noot Moot the Winter Summer Moot for 18-20 March 2022, however due to reasons outside of our control we have had to make the decision to postpone. We know that all Rovers have waited so long to come to Summer Moot and a big Rover activity, and we can't wait to see you all there when it does run!!

Finally, Normanhurst Rovers just wanted to say a big congratulations to you for making it through 2021. Though we don't want to dwell too much on the past, we can all be proud of ourselves and each other as Rovers and Scouts for trying to put our best foot forward. So, use that energy to make sure, that 2022 is a year that's one of the best.



Platabeen Rovers
Unit Leader – Lucie Malone

“Oh my what a year” - yet again seems appropriate to describe the craziness that was 2021. From more lockdowns and online Scouting to new skills, hobbies and friends, the Rovers from Platabeen showed what can only be described as grit and tenacity to deliver yet another exceptional year of Scouting.

Starting the year off strong we welcomed our new executive team to the table, Lucie Malone (Chair), Liberty Davis (Assistant Chair), Amelia Malone (Secretary and Public Relations), Megan Schumacher (Treasurer), Keeley Turner (Quater Master), Nell McNeil (Social and Service), Josie Butler and Kacie Turner (Venturer Liaison Officers). From the get-go, this all-girls executive was buzzing with ideas and activities to ensure our Unit made the most of the restriction-less summer.



And made the most of that we certainly did. Our annual Iron Chef was first on the agenda with new and old master chefs returning to the kitchen to show us their skills. We discovered our love for all things climbing with Abseiling nights, bouldering and canyoning weekends becoming a new favourite. Despite no Dragon Skin, we still made sure our local Venturer Units had an amazing Easter, venturing to Austinmer for the weekend. Despite a broken bone and fiery BBQ, the beach days, waterfall adventures and Jamberoo made sure we controlled some fun-filled action. With camping withdrawals from the year before, we also headed

out to a chilly Newnes for a weekend of bushwalks, 4WDing and fire dancing under the stars.

Just as we thought the COVID restrictions were gone and online Scouting was in the past, the spicy cough returned with Platabeen once again finding themselves on Zoom. Weekly meetings started off well with attendance high as we got back into the online games and random lockdown hobbies. From cooking to coding, murder mysteries, escape rooms, trivia and dinner parties, Platabeen was certainly kept busy. We dabbled in some yoga and painted masterpiece after masterpiece, but as lockdown dragged on, interest dwindled, and we moved to fortnightly online meetings as we eagerly awaited a face-to-face return.

Not to worry, the return was in sight and what a comeback was had. Night one we invested three new faces as we picnicked together and planned an action-packed year-end, and congratulated Courtney Turner on her Stan Bales Rover Service Award. Jumping straight back outdoors we participated in many night hikes, beach days and waterfall adventures. We shared new hobbies like golf, SUPing and even pottery, while re-establishing our Venturer ties with an Amazing Race. Christmas quickly approached with the Unit joining ‘Claus for A Cause’ as well as organising a fabulous Christmas party and family dinner.





As 2022 came around, more adventure and excitement were had with our first Unit camp of the year at Burrallow with Forest Rovers. Some members ventured down to Victoria to surf at Surf Moot while others enjoyed the sunshine of home with more day hikes and water activities. Our annual "Has-Beens" (former members) catch-up saw fierce go-karting competition, followed by a more relaxed Monopoly adventure through Chatswood for Roventure.

Despite the fun and games, the Unit still took some time for service participating in the Sydney City ANZAC Day March, assisting at the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic, Clean Up Australia Day, Barra Brui mowing and the Region Service Bush Regeneration Project.

While we welcomed many new faces this year (10 woohoop), we were also sadly faced with multiple farewells. Tim Smart, Leon Schmechel, Nyssa Booth, Nathan (Noot) Watkins, Courtney Turner and Nick Keeler were booted over the course of 2021, six exceptionally active Rovers who will be missed. With COVID restrictions continually changing, we are hoping to celebrate these members' contributions and Scouting journeys in the coming weeks.

All in all, 2021 was certainly a year. Yet another filled with unexpected twists and turns, I am proud to be Platabeen's Unit Leader. Despite the challenges, these crazy bush nerds continued to band together and evidently produce a year of amazing activities. I can't wait to see what next year holds.



YiR, Lucie

Turramurra Rovers
Unit Leader – Mia Capper

2021 was filled with the air of promise of no more lockdowns and return to somewhat normal regular lifestyle, boy were we wrong.

We started 2021 off strong with an amazing program which included: Region canyon course, Founder's Day, Are you smarter than a Sam Pitman?, the surprise "Willie" night, Unit camp to Cowra for Easter, blind drop night and a Unit 4WD trip to the Watagans.



Sadly, the world had different plans for us as we were plunged back into a lockdown - little did we know this would be for four months. We saw the influx of "Cancelled" come across our screens again and it was hard not to get discouraged. Once again, we had to cancel our much-anticipated "Tom Cruise" Harbour Cruise, but this year we are excited to provide an event that will be one for the calendars!



The Unit did not let lockdown get them down as we continued to meet throughout the four months, with many online activities such as: meditation, Master Debate night, short film night, a mystery challenge, formal meeting/mocktails, the last-ever Squire night and much more.

Service activities for the year included: ANZAC Day, Bobbin Head Cycle Classic, helping demolish the Group's toilets (for renovation) and a good turnout at Region Service Project.

Intersection/Unit activities also included: first aid night with the Scouts, joint nights with Normanhurst and Brush Park, spoke to the Cubs about what Rovers is all about, beach night with the Venturers and Bobbin Head with the Venturers.



Amongst the chaos, this year we were lucky enough to welcome some new faces to our family, including Ryan Saberton, Ashley Baber, Mikaela Becchio and Annabelle Ferguson. After many years of discussion, Turramurra officially welcomed Anna Ridley as our Assistant RA. She has been a valuable resource and we thank her for taking the plunge with us!



Sadly, we had a few farewells throughout the year including Ciara Smart, Nat Powell, Alyssa Markey, Edward Allchurch, Darcy Dunkin, Georgia North, Charlie Snaith, Rebecca Mabbott, Damian Sweeney and Clifford Temisgian.

I would like to thank our RAs Ian and Anna and my Exec for 2021/2022 for all the support they provided me throughout my term as Unit Leader. It has been a very tough year, but we made it! I very much look forward to what 2022/2023 has to offer!

Yaralla Rovers

Unit Leader – Sarah Berlecky

2021 was a bit of a roller coaster year for Yaralla Rover Unit. We had a new member transfer into the Unit and no Booting's meant we grew in numbers which is impressive given how hard this year has been! We had members serve on the RRC and SRC Executives as Secretary for the first time in the Units history in Sydney North, which was a rewarding experience and brought the Unit closer to the Region! Members of the Unit also started their training on the new system and will have the opportunity to pioneer the way for future members.



The Unit optimistically planned for events such as Dragonskin, ScoutHike and MMT but due to the global climate these didn't go ahead. However, the Unit is forging on and is signed on to run Night Activities at Dragonskin 2022, a base at ScoutHike 2022 and Winter Summer Moot 2022 with Normanhurst Rovers. Fingers crossed that 2022 is the year we get to show the Region what we are made of and hope that these events proceed!

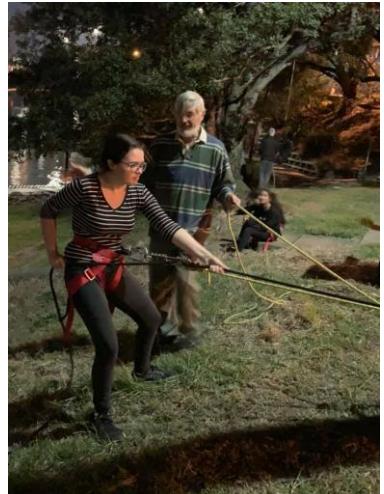
With our new PR Officer, we have seen an explosion in our social media presence with fun activities documented such as Roventure with our Venturers, service at the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic, Bike Hike to Parramatta, Scavenger Hunts with Kissing Point, Forest Rover's Clause for a Cause, ANZAC Day Dawn Service, a ghost tour at Q-Station, our annual Christmas Tree fundraiser and various cooking nights. The Unit had great fun taking out some frustrations on some weeds at the Region Service Project as well and loved getting a bit dirty for a great cause. We worked on our rope skills at our Horizontal Vertical night and our boating nights which has inspired some members to get qualified to be able to run these activities on a regular basis.



Most notable from the past year was the Unit's first Weekend Away to Kiama and its surrounds. Battling weather to get there, the sun came out by the second day, and we had great fun taking on the water slides and bobsled at Jamberoo and hiking through the Minnamurra rainforest, enjoying the markets and grabbing an ice cream before putting our putting skills to the test at Holey Moley. On the whole, the weekend was very memorable for all, and we hope to go away again soon!



Over the past year the Unit has made a couple of notable achievements. One of which was ranking 1st in NSW and 3rd overall in Australia for the Lifeblood Plasma Challenge. Especially noting only 50% of the Units members were eligible to donate, this was a monumental effort, and we encourage anyone that can donate to keep donating as the demand never ceases! Yaralla also won a ROSCAR for The Most Improved Unit, which is really humbling given how few members we have. We really appreciate the encouragement and are striving to live up to the title this year too!







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