



# Sydney North Region Rovers 2020/21 Annual Report



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## 2020/2021 Region Rover Council (RRC) Executive Team

<i>Chairperson</i>	Courtney Turner (Platabeen)
<i>Assistant Chairperson</i>	Sophie Carter (Gordon)
<i>Secretary</i>	Kacie Turner (Platabeen)
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jason Urquhart (Forest)
<i>Public Relations</i>	Lucie Malone (Platabeen)
<i>Merchandise Co-ordinator</i>	Oliver Mouat (Platabeen)
<i>Activities Co-ordinator – Social</i>	Ashlin Williams (Forest)
<i>Activities Co-ordinator – Rock/Outdoors</i>	Luke Barnett (Gordon)
<i>Venturer Liaison</i>	Donna Staff (Normanhurst)
<i>Youth Liaison</i>	Naomi Butler (Forest)
<i>Training Co-ordinator</i>	Elyse Versace (Kananga)
<i>Service Co-ordinator</i>	Nick Bassett (Normanhurst)
<i>SRC Delegates</i>	Aaron Kew (Forest) Ashlin Williams (Forest) Monica Gonzalez (Normanhurst) Naomi Butler (Forest)
<i>Regional Commissioner – Rovers</i>	Nick Buchner
<i>Assistant Regional Commissioner – Rovers</i>	<i>Position vacant</i>



*2020/2021 BADEN-POWELL SCOUT AWARD RECIPIENTS*

*Courtney Turner – Collaroy Plateau/Narrabeen Rover Unit*

*Maddison Domanko – Kissing Point Rover Unit*

Courtney Turner  
**Chair**  
(Platabeen Rover Unit)

WOAH WHAT A YEAR!!!

We kicked off the year with ~~Dragonskin, Scout Hike, Mud Bash, Bogong Ski trip~~. Wait, nope, it was all cancelled and we went into lockdown!

But seriously, congratulations to everyone for making through the ~dumpster fire~ year that was 2020. A bigger congratulations to everyone who was trying to do Rovering online – it was not what we were used to, but we overcame it, ready to kick back into Rovering.

Whilst there were so many things cancelled, particularly some huge events that we were all looking forward to, (MMT, Harbour Cruise, Claus for a Cause, Summer Moot) we still did amazing things in 2020. We went on Unit Camps, did local service, participated in JOTA/JOTI, went on more camps, got outdoors and participated in adventurous activities, had training in Mental Health First Aid, went cross-country skiing, online and face-to-face dinner parties, painting nights, bingo and trivia nights, and some teaching of ‘skills’ (do TikTok dances count?)

We also saw two people be awarded the Tony Balthasar Achievement Award. Hugh Percival of Normanhurst Rovers will be completing a solo end-to-end hike of ‘The Kings Trail’ in northern Sweden. Will Wade of Turramurra Rovers will be travelling to Mexico to embark on advanced cave diver training in the Yucatan Cenotes. Congratulations to these well-deserved recipients! This is an amazing opportunity and we all cannot wait to see what you get up to!

More congrats are in order: massive congratulations to those were awarded Rover Recognition Awards, all well-deserved for their contribution to Rovering.

- Marcus Swift (Gordon)
- Harry Day (Turramurra)
- Kacie Turner (Platabeen)
- Donna Staff (Normanhurst)
- Elyse Versace (Kananga)

Aaaaaand, a huge BRAVO to Forest, Normanhurst and Kananga Rovers who were presented with Quality Rovering Awards. They were the only Rover Units in the state to achieve a QRA this year, once again proving, with no bias, that Sydney North Rovers are the best.

Finally, thank you to the lovely ‘Exclusive RRC Club’ AKA the exec. You guys are amazing and hilarious and supportive and most of all, put up with my angry rants at all times of the day with no judgment, and sometimes even join in. I can’t wait to see where you all go in Rovering. You have been the lights of my 2020 Scouting year.

Peace out bush nerds. I promise I won’t hang around for too much longer.

Court xx



Sophie Carter  
**Assistant Chair**  
(Gordon Rover Crew)



What a fantastic year we have had! We've had the opportunity to slow down and appreciate the little things and quiet moments. Zoom meetings, pets standing on laptops, endless pyjama days, and so much food were just some of the highlights of the year. Thank you to everyone who stayed home. Thank you to everyone who kept in touch with friends and got creative on how to do what we as Rovers love. The flexibility, creativity and resilience of the Sydney North Rovers has been inspirational.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being your Assistant Chair this year! Courtney and the entire Exec team have been fantastic to work with and here are some of the coolest things we achieved in a truly crazy year:

- No Crews closed!! This was our main goal for the year, and we succeeded!
- A whole bunch of epic new Rovers did their basic training before the training system changes.
- Crew activities were as awesome as ever, with inter-Crew activities on the rise.
- We had two Rovers receive their canyoning and abseiling guide qualifications!!!!
- We held a Roventure that was a huge success! Congratulations to 2<sup>nd</sup> Gordon Rovers for putting on a fantastic event that was COVID safe and the best Roventure in years!
- Courtney ran RRCs in record time just about every meeting!!!
- Crews are spending more and more time outdoors! Forest and Epping recently spent a weekend canyoning. Kissing Point is gearing up for an overnight bike hike. Gordon has been canyoning non-stop and Charlotte Mason ran a fantastic white-water canyon weekend for their Crew. Normo took on Barrington. Turramurra ran a beginner ski weekend. Hikes were a regular occurrence, and several Crew camps took place! As a lover of all things outdoors, this makes me so happy! I can't wait to see what cool outdoor adventures Crew's manage to work into their schedule this coming year!
- We are looking into starting three new Crews at Moocooboolah, Lower North Shore and Hornsby Heights. This will hopefully continue throughout 2021 and any of these Crews would be a fantastic addition to Sydney North!

On a personal note, I was fortunate enough to move Crews this year. The welcome I received from 2<sup>nd</sup> Gordon Rovers was wonderful and it brought me to tears on multiple occasions. But this level of support and hospitality has been made evident through my visits to most Crews in the region. Thank you for being your wonderful selves and I can't wait to see you all around in 2021!!

Stay Wonderful!!

Love Sophie, Coop & Bridget xx



Kacie Turner  
**Secretary**  
(Platabeen Rover Unit)

It's that time of the year where I say more than 'nothing to report'. Heck yeah, another year of SNRRC Secretary has come to an end, and what a year it has been. Starting off with lockdown, and finishing it with some more lockdown, it's been a blast!

It has been a great time working with the Exec team for the past year, and I am so proud and impressed with how they all coped and succeeded in their roles! Each and every one of them have made meetings fun and exciting, and best to not forget about our lovely Exec getaway! They ensured that everyone had been completing their training, kept up the solid work making sure we had a Region Service Project this year and actually sent their reports in on time! This team has been fantastic to work with and I am so glad I had the pleasure to sometimes get to listen to our meetings twice (we love a zoom)!!!!

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!



Jason Urquhart  
**Treasurer**  
 (Forest Rover Crew)



Well, what a lovely year it has been. Fortunately, the RRC has remained strong financially throughout 2020. The RRC recorded a small deficit of \$238.31 during the period. This figure excludes the Development Fund, SRC levies and merchandise transactions. I have decided to exclude SRC levies and merchandise from this figure 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, and we collect SRC levies on behalf of the State Rover Council.

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

<b><u>Simplified Income Statement</u></b>		Jan 01, 2020 to Dec 31, 2020
<b><u>Income</u></b>		<b><u>Calendar year 2020</u></b>
Registration Fees - RRC Levies		0.00
Special Activity		\$2,090.96
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$2,090.96</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Major equipment		-\$319.00
Misc Expense		-\$302.95
RRC BBQs		-\$25.30
Special Activity - Meeting Prizes		-\$15.36
Square Fees		-\$1.66
Subsidies		-\$1,065.00
Impairment expense		-\$600.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>-\$2,329.27</b>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>-\$238.31</b>

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, and minimal expenses incurred by the RRC we agreed that no RRC levy shall be charged for the 2020 year. As a result of this the only income received was a historical Moot surplus from Summer Moot (Gamer Moot) run by Berowra in 2019.

The impairment expense of \$600 refers to the discount of merchandise. The old scout logo polos were reduced by \$10 per item, resulting in a \$600 impairment expense to the RRC as these were previously sold at cost. We have sold four of these at the discounted price hence accumulated impairment has been reduced by \$40. I will aim to include an accurate Cost of Goods Sold account in the Income statement next year, however this year I have included an estimate based on the margin we make on sticker and T shirt sales (\$1.88 per sticker and \$0.09 per T shirt). Other items have no margin (at cost).

The financial statements and budget for 2021 of the Sydney North Region Rover Council are provided below. These statements provide a holistic overview of the finances of the Rover Council. Significant transactions include the \$12,660.72 which was transferred to the Development Fund as a result of the closure of Lindfield Rover Crew. \$1065.00 was also spent during the year on subsidies such as the COVID19 hardship subsidy and the Mental Health First Aid Course.

**Financial Statements**

<b><u>Statement of Comprehensive Income</u></b>	Jan 01, 2020 to Dec 31, 2020	Jan 01, 2019 to Dec 31, 2019
<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b><u>Calendar year 2020</u></b>	<b><u>Calendar year 2019</u></b>
Merch Sales	\$597.30	\$746.46
Misc	\$588.00	\$21.00
Registration Fees - BRC Levies	\$4,992.70	\$2,852.10
Registration Fees - RRC Levies	\$1,332.00	\$1,300.00
Special Activity	\$2,090.96	\$1,158.88
Development Fund - Crew Closures	\$12,660.72	\$10,749.26
Square Fees	-\$1.51	-\$2.98
Square Fees - GST	-\$0.15	-\$0.32
Special Activity - April Region Dinner	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Special Activity - CRAP Region Dinner	\$0.00	\$1,250.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$22,260.02</b>	<b>\$19,574.40</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Major equipment	-\$319.00	\$0.00
Misc Expense	-\$890.95	-\$376.77
Registration Fees	-\$2,116.80	-\$2,430.40
RRC BBQs	-\$25.30	-\$319.40
Special Activity - Meeting Prizes	-\$15.36	-\$68.10
Subsidies	-\$1,065.00	\$0.00
Bank Charges	\$0.00	-\$2.50
Leader Costs	\$0.00	-\$225.00

Special Activity - CLBAM	\$0.00	-\$920.30
Special Activity - Misc	\$0.00	-\$3,878.38
Special Activity - Scout Hike	\$0.00	-\$390.00
Fundraising - Merch Purchases	\$0.00	-\$111.68
Cost of Goods Sold (estimate)	-\$500.00	-\$650.00
Impairment expense	-\$600.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-\$5,532.41</b>	<b>-\$9,372.53</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$16,727.61</b>	<b>\$10,201.87</b>

<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>Calendar year 2020</b>	<b>Calendar year 2019</b>
Cash - General Funds	\$26,369.29	\$21,099.40
Cash - Development Funds	\$25,642.85	\$12,982.13
Merchandise at cost	\$4,998.81	\$5,548.81
Accumulated Impairment of Merchandise	-\$560.00	\$0.00
Accounts Receivable	\$44.80	\$2,920.90
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$56,485.75</b>	<b>\$42,551.24</b>

<b>Cash Flow Statement</b>	<b>Calendar year 2020</b>	<b>Calendar year 2019</b>
<b>Starting Balance</b>		
Cash on Hand	\$103.00	\$0.00
General Funds	\$21,099.40	\$21,037.79
Special Funds	\$12,982.13	\$2,232.87
<b>Total Starting Balance</b>	<b>\$34,184.53</b>	<b>\$23,270.66</b>
Gross Cash Inflow	\$22,260.02	\$19,639.70
Gross Cash Outflow	\$4,432.41	\$8,725.83
Net Cash Change	\$17,827.61	\$10,913.87
<b>Ending Balance</b>		
Cash on Hand	\$0.00	\$103.00
General Funds	\$26,369.29	\$21,099.40
Special Funds	\$25,642.85	\$12,982.13
<b>Total Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$52,012.14</b>	<b>\$34,184.53</b>

### **Budget**

The 2021 Budget for the year is provided below. The RRC levies will be adapted at the end of year to cover the actual cost however I expect the amount to be similar to what is budgeted. Starting next year, I will aim to invoice the previous year's SRC levies alongside RRC levies at the beginning of the year. The RRC levies will be set at the December RRC meeting. I am hoping that this will now be charged as a per capita fee, similar to the SRC fee for fairness and simplicity purposes however this will be voted on in due course.

<b>Item</b>		<b>Notes</b>
RRC Exec Name Bars	\$ 195.00	Based on 2020 amount
RRC BBQs	\$ 320.00	Based on 2019 amount
RRC Meeting Prizes	\$ 70.00	Based on 2019 amount
CLBAM	\$ 500.00	Estimated amount
Roventure	\$ 143.00	As per Roventure budget
Misc Event Expenses	\$ 200.00	Things like Oxfam and Centenary BBQ
RRC Annual Report	\$ 62.50	As per quote provided by Kacie
Membership fees for Regional Commissioner - Rovers	\$ 120.00	As per State
Gift to Auditor	\$ 75.00	Allocated amount to purchase gift
Various Subsidies	\$ 1,000.00	Estimated
Provision for misc expenses	\$ 100.00	Estimated
<b>Total RRC levy income required</b>	<b>\$ 2,785.50</b>	Or approximately \$16 per person

Please note that this budget does not include expenses that are fully covered by participant payments (e.g. CRAP, Merchandise etc). This budget is also highly likely to change however it provides a rough idea of expenses to be incurred by the RRC. The expense that is highly likely to change is subsidies as this is very difficult to estimate however the RRC levies will be adjusted for this accordingly.

There is a contingent liability that will be payable in 2021 referring to the costs of Summer Moot that was unable to run on 2 occasions due to COVID19. As it is a Region event, the RRC has to cover the costs of the event despite it being cancelled. The amount to be paid to the organisers (Platabeen Rover Unit) is currently unknown however I expect this to be below \$1000.

It has been a pleasure serving as the RRC Treasurer for the past 12 months. Wishing everyone all the best for the year ahead.

Lucie Malone  
**Public Relations Officer**  
(Platabeen Rover Unit)



2020. I mean, what a year!?? From bushfires to COVID and every exciting disaster in between, the Rovers of Sydney North's perseverance and strength is something to be notably commended. With events cancelled every other day and weekly nights moved online, the strength and endurance of our Units Region-wide is admirable. 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.

As the Region embraced the couch-based superhero stance, weekly Unit meetings became virtual with innovative craft nights, cooking nights and games popular. Thus, Unit created content became a major sharing point and key pinnacle of the Region's PR approach, with content highlighting what others are getting up to despite the distance.

Instagram became a particular focus across the year, with the platform's engagement skyrocketing compared to previous years usage. 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 Ventures 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.

The Crew in Spotlight posts were notably fun, with the Instagram audience able to 'meet' the different Units active throughout the Region. Other social media strategies used included a couple of Throwback Thursday posts, with impressive interaction across both Facebook and Instagram. A stronger focus on helping Units begin and or boost their Instagram platforms moving forward is something that could be extremely beneficial.

Despite this success, not all goals were achieved this year. Platform takeovers were one such idea touch upon with no to little action, largely due to COVID restrictions. 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. Other features growing in popularity is the reel section of Instagram or even TikTok. Again, maybe this is something to explore over the 2021/22 period?

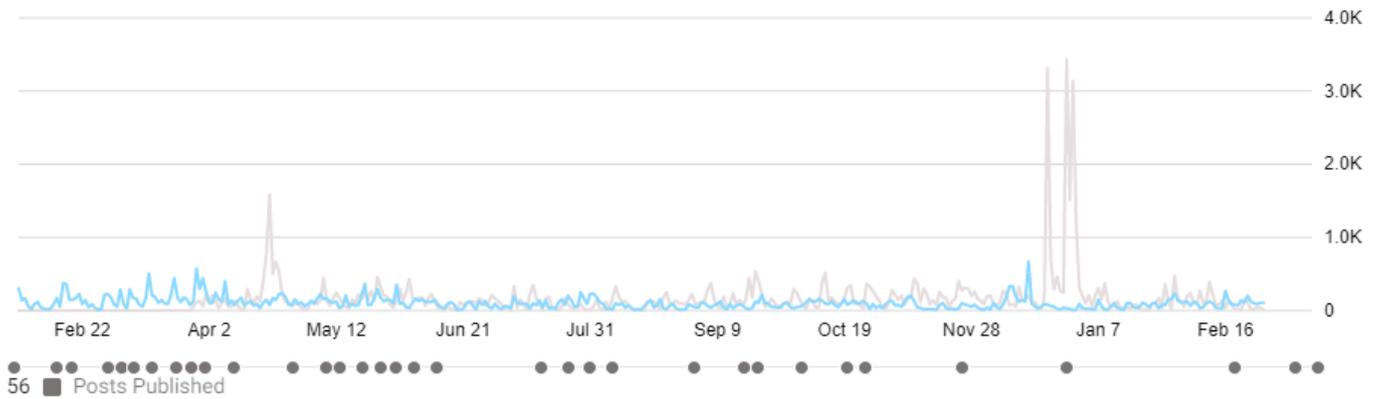
Additionally, I struggled to move the Region's PR activity beyond the social platforms we already have in place. Despite the quarterly Compass article, no effort was made to encourage promotion across other avenues using other media forms.

All in all, the year of 2020/21 certainly proved challenging, with the Region PR experiencing no difference. Despite this, goals were still met with wonderful success or at least action plans and ideas for implementation moving forward established. 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!!!

## Trends

Facebook Page Reach ⓘ

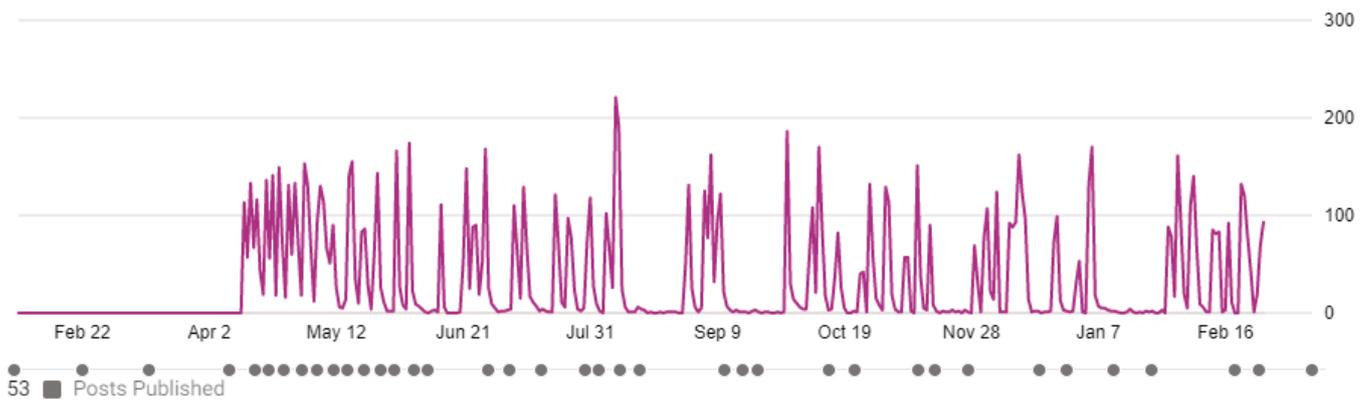
4,924 ↓ 51.6%



Instagram Reach ⓘ

912 ↑ 100%

SNR Social Media Trends 2020/21 v. 2019/20



Oliver Mouat  
**Merchandise Co-Ordinator**  
 (Platabeen Rover Unit)

Merchandise officer has been my first role as an Executive member of the RRC, and it's certainly been a challenging one. I feel as though there were not many sales opportunities to be made, which are the most important factor in success in my role.

Region sales have always relied on in-person spruiking, and with this year's sales still only having two email orders, it has become even clearer how important physical sales are. On top of this, we've had to discount the red polo shirts due to a lack of sales expected to only decline further as it uses the heritage Scouts logo, and it no longer seen as up-to-date.

While we may not have seen the sales numbers we would have liked, I have confidence in whoever takes the role next year to have no trouble making much better figures by simply showing up to events ready to take payments or lending the events box to someone who is able.



Sales numbers below.

Gross sales since this date last year are \$625.86

Sales from RRC on February 7<sup>th</sup> plus \$66 from items receipted late

ITEM	QUANTITY SOLD	PRICE EA.	TOTAL
ROVER STICKER	3	\$3	\$9
GREY T-SHIRT	4	\$10	\$40
ROVER SUNGLASSES – WHITE	3	\$10	\$30
ROVER SUNGLASSES – YELLOW	2	\$10	\$20
ROVER SUNGLASSES – BLACK	1	\$10	\$10
<b>TOTAL SALES FOR PERIOD</b>	-	-	\$109

Total current inventory

ITEM	QUANTITY
RED POLO SHIRT SIZE 10	4
RED POLO SHIRT SIZE 12	3
RED POLO SHIRT SIZE 14	14
RED POLO SHIRT SIZE 16	14
RED POLO SHIRT SIZE S	10
RED POLO SHIRT SIZE M	3
RED POLO SHIRT SIZE XL	5
RED POLO SHIRT SIZE 3XL	3
GREY T-SHIRT SIZE S	19
GREY T-SHIRT SIZE M	31
GREY T-SHIRT SIZE L	46
GREY T-SHIRT SIZE XL	40
GREY T-SHIRT SIZE 2XL	14
GREY T-SHIRT SIZE 3XL	8
ROVER SUNGLASSES, YELLOW	2
ROVER PARKING SIGNS	5
“PREPARE FOR FUN” ROVER STICKER	214
RED ROVER STICKER	1753

Ash Williams

**Activities Co-Ordinator – Social**  
(Forest Rover Crew)

In 2020, we had an interesting year with events and social activities in general. We unfortunately did not get to run our usual events like Kalang Kup, Region Dinner, Moots etc. Although we did get to run a few things throughout the year – in between lockdowns. Firstly, we ran an online BINGO night, this was a Region event. We then planned to run Kalang Kup in the end of October and Region Dinner in December. And finally, we had ROSCARS, although these were run in a different format as to previous years. Thankfully, we did have one shining light, Roventure. This year, Gordon ran Roventure in February but in a different format and in a COVID safe way.



In the beginning of 2020 when we first went into lockdown, we wanted to run an event to keep the social aspect of the Region as DeMOOTtcracy had recently been cancelled. So, we ran an online bingo night and had a few members of the Region attend and we got to see Nick B on the infamous ‘The Chase’ and him playing some trumpet! Although not a large event it was a good way to test out the new platforms that we were thrown into.

Throughout the year, we had plans for Kalang Kup and Region Dinner – I had planned out the locations, themes/sport and started with logistics for attendees in a COVID safe manner. Although unfortunately, we didn’t get to run either events due to restrictions or lack of interest. I am hoping to pass along some ideas and information regarding these events to the future co-ordinator to try and revamp the events and return it to their former glory.

ROSCARS were thankfully still run this year but were only awarded at the RRC meeting in December 2020. I was very proud of the Region for being able to continue to show exemplary work even in a tough situation. To recap the winners of each category:

Most Improved Crew: **Gordon Rovers**

Most Outstanding Crew: **Normanhurst Rovers**

Most Outstanding Rover: **Donna Staff – Normanhurst**

Best Service Activity: **Lindfield Rocks Clean Up – received by Sophie Carter**

Best Activity: **Roventure – Normanhurst**



Finally, Roventure – Gordon Rovers ran Roventure for 2021, and they ran it as a scavenger hunt based around the Harbour and it was a fantastic time! Congrats to the joint team of Forest Rovers and Belrose Venturers on their win! Due to all the cancellations, there was quite a large interest in the event, and the fact that they managed to really change up the regular Roventure is fantastic. We were noticing the trend of declining attendance to the camp over the last few years. I’m hoping that this will set a new precedence for future events and will bring this event back to life.

I hope for the future social co-ordinator that the restrictions will ease, and we will be able to enjoy all the events that didn’t happen this year. I do have some ideas for the future events that I would love to work on with whoever works on these events next.

- Ash Out!

Luke Barnett

**Activities Co-Ordinator – Rock/Outdoors**  
(Gordon Rover Crew)

The 2020-2021 year has been a year full of challenges and curve balls in the outdoor activities sector. Bushfires in late 2019 leading into January 2020 meant much of Sydney North Region's favourite activity backyard, the Blue Mountains, was out of bounds for much of 2020 due to the need to give the bush a break to rejuvenate. In March we went into lockdown, and all-in person Scouting activities were postponed or cancelled. Once we were slowly allowed back out, many Rover Crews took the opportunity to stretch their legs.



A group of seven SNR Rovers went to the New Zealand canyoning festival in February, and also completed a two day swift-water canyoning training course and many stayed on for a few more days or weeks of canyoning around the south island. The water was crystal clear, fast-flowing, and cold but with the training at the start of the trip, we had the skills to navigate the canyons safely.



On the 26<sup>th</sup> of July, A joint beginner cross-country ski activity with Turramurra, Normanhurst and Gordon Rovers was run. The participants skied from Thredbo to Mt Kosciuszko and it was the first joint adventurous activity held offline.

2<sup>nd</sup> Gordon Rovers said goodbye to canyoning extraordinaire Marcus Swift, and a booting camp at Jervis Bay was held, with snorkelling, diving, and hiking over the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of August. It was sad to see such a long-term Rover and core member of our Crew leave us, but I'm sure it isn't the last we will be seeing of him...

Another snow trip was held the following weekend on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August. Initially intending on being a blue lake ice climbing trip, poor weather turned it into a mountaineering skills weekend based out of Schlink hut, under the instruction of Normo Rover Advisor Alex Motyka.

Wesley Leverton ran one of his annual snowcraft courses over the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August, which some Rovers from Turramurra helped out on. Their help was much appreciated, and the weekend ran smoothly as always.

Harry Day was seen off as a Rover over a fantastic weekend canyoning in the Blue Mountains over the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November. Harry has been a key Rover in the outdoor adventure activities sector, and his experience and friendship will be missed on Rover activities, however he will be joining the Region rockcraft team as he was awarded canyoning and abseiling guide qualifications this year.



Gordon Rovers helped their Venturer Unit go white water kayaking on the Goobarragandra and Tumut rivers in the first week of January. The trips went well, and the Rovers had their work cut out for them collecting swimmers and equipment when Venturers fell in.

We saw yet another heavy hitter in the adventurous activities sector leave us, Mike Ashelford. Mike's booting was a lazy extended weekend of swimming, camping and canyoning which everyone thoroughly enjoyed!

Epping and Forest Rovers took up the rockcraft teams offer of a guided trip, with Marcus and Harry - I told you they weren't done with us yet! For many of the Rovers, it was their first experiences canyoning and some have told me that they are hooked already and have signed up for future canyon weekends!

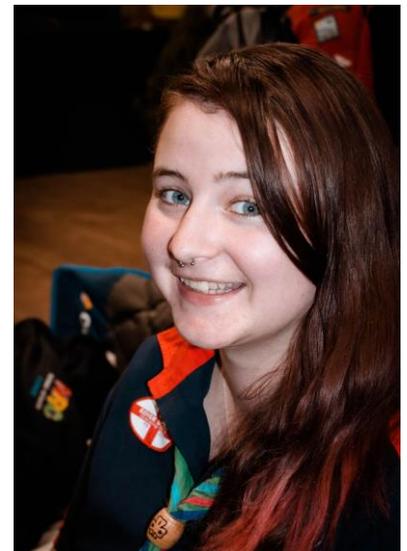
Donna Staff  
**Venturer Liaison Officer**  
(Normanhurst Rover Crew)

Well, 2020 was certainly a different kind of year. Unsurprisingly there wasn't much that happened linking-wise as of lockdowns and being online most of the time. Now that we are back face-to-face it is more important than ever to meet with our Venturer Units to keep the bonds strong so Rovers can continue.

As Dragonskin has once again been cancelled it is super important that we all make an effort to do things at a Unit level. If you are ever out of ideas that you can do with your linked Venturer Units, there is always resources on the Region website or check out what other Units have previously done on Social Media.

Here is to a better 2021.

Donna



Naomi Butler  
**Youth Liaison Officer**  
(Forest Rover Crew)

What a year 2020 has been. From fires to lockdowns and being forced to change our whole lives!

This year we had a great success with having interactions with the Scout Leaders at a Region level. We had a Rover at every Region Mindari and were able to have some Rovers help with Scout Leadership courses and more, which meant we were able to have our section represented and could promote Rovers to the younger ages.



There was a little less success with the Cub and Joey sections however we have still had contact. Due to restrictions, most of their larger events have been cancelled, and it was again harder for us to promote ourselves to these younger sections. With the new year bringing in eased restrictions and vaccinations, it is looking promising that we will be able to see each section again soon.

On a sad note, ScoutHike 2020 was cancelled due to the lockdown and with the uncertainty of 2021, it was cancelled for a second year. It would be great to have ScoutHike in 2022 and get all the Scouts who have never attended one to see the Rover sleep point and see exactly how awesome we are!

I would love to encourage everyone to always keep their eyes and ears out for any and every opportunity to inspire a younger youth member to be a Rover when they grow up. To help with this, we have our limited-edition logo shirts and woggles, which are free to use for promoting Rovers!

I think next year our focus for this position should be to get a better relationship with both the Cub and Joey sections, and having a Rover attend each Region meeting of theirs to help plan for events.

Elyse Versace  
**Training Co-Ordinator**  
(Kananga Rover Crew)



2020/2021 has been an interesting year for all aspects of Roving and training was no exception! Having said that, Sydney North once again proved that we are a powerhouse Region when it comes to training, not only running another Rover Basic Practical Supplement Course in February 2021 but also having our first Youth Mental Health First Aid Course in November 2020 amidst restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We started the year unable to meet face-to-face causing the cancellation of all training courses in NSW. As well as this, the new training syllabus had been delayed in its release which meant all sections, including Rovers, were at a standstill unable to move forward in their training.

As a result, the NSWRC EO – Training, Hugh Crawford, released an Expression of Interest form which covered all training courses available to Rovers prior to restrictions. The purpose of this form was to allow us to directly contact interested Rovers with information related to the courses they wanted to attend once they were up and running again. The lack of Rover activities also gave Rovers the opportunity to complete their pre-requisite eLearning in preparation for when training course resumed.

In August 2020 restrictions eased and face-to-face training had started to resume. There was a Rover BPS and APS run at Bundilla Scout Camp which had 9 applicants (8 for BPS, 1 for APS) from Sydney North demonstrating how keen we were to get back into training! Unfortunately, shortly after applications closed more restrictions were brought in regarding how many people could attend each course and 'Region Bubbles' were implemented meaning all Rovers from Sydney North were kicked off the BPS Course but our applicant for the APS Course, Sophie Carter from 2<sup>nd</sup> Gordon Rover Unit, was allowed to attend. We look forward to seeing her complete her Advanced Rover Leadership training journey and achieve her Rover Wood Badge! Despite not being able to have participants at this BPS Course we still had Rovers from our Region present sessions at this course.

In September 2020 there was another Rover BPS run at Kariong Scout Camp which was opened to Rovers from our Region. This course had seven participants attend with five of them from our Region! They were made up of Rovers from Normanhurst, Epping and MCMK Rover Units.

Shortly after this there was a push from Scouts NSW for training to be moved online and there was the creation of an online Rover BPS Course to be run in October 2020 over consecutive Tuesday nights. Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled due to lack of applicants and Sydney North voiced their need and want for face-to-face training to resume at the NSW Rover Council Meeting in October.

We got our request and in November 2020 we had our first Mental Health First Aid Course! Due to restrictions, we were only allowed to have 20 participants and we filled every single spot with Rovers from Gordon, Forest, Turramurra, Platabeen, Yaralla, MCMK, Epping and Kananga Rover Units. This now means that we almost have at least one Rover in every Unit in our Region trained in Mental Health First Aid which is a massive achievement! At this point I would like to thank Grace Mitchell (South Metropolitan Region) and Harrison Lantry (South Coast and Tablelands Region) from the Psychological Awareness and Welfare (P.A.W.) Patrol for taking the time to run this worthwhile course for us.

To cap off what ended up being an incredible year of training for the Rovers in Sydney North, we ran another Rover BPS Course in February 2021. This course will go down in the history books as the last Rover-specific Basic Practical Supplement Course to be run face-to-face. This is an achievement that I am so proud to be a part of and I hope the other Rovers involved are too. Despite being open to Rovers in Greater Western Sydney Region we had 19 applicants for this course all from Sydney North with Rovers from Berowra, Forest, Gordon, Kissing Point, MCMK, Platabeen, Turramurra and Yaralla Rover Units. Not only did we dominate as participants, but the majority of our course organisers and presenters were from Sydney North, continuing to demonstrate the incredible knowledge that our Rovers (past and present) have and are wanting to pass on to the next generation. This included Maddison Domanko from Kissing Point Rover Unit who I would like to congratulate on achieving her Wood Badge this year!

Looking to the future now and the new training syllabus was released in January 2021 and is planned to be implemented as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2021. This means that all Basic training under the old training syllabus will need to be commenced, if not completed, by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The new syllabus means instead of Rover-specific training, you will now receive the same training as Leaders in other sections with the Basic Practical Supplement being replaced by 'Scouting Essentials', Basic Outdoor Skills being replaced by 'Scouting Adventure' and In-Service being replaced by 'On the Job'. This will mean that once you complete this training in one section, it is transferable to all sections, so you do not need to complete any additional training as is currently required under the old system.

It will be interesting to see what the next 12 months looks like for training in Rovers. There are a few who speculate that the current proposal means quite a lot of the unique training needed to be a Rover Unit Leader, that makes us different from being say, a Joey Leader, will be lost. Some are proposing creating another Rover-specific course to fill in the blanks. Whatever the outcome, I strongly recommend looking at the new training syllabus with an open but critical mind and remembering that, as demonstrated this year, you have a voice that can make change if change is what you feel is needed for the betterment of Rovering in Sydney North.

Sadly, that's all from me as I am fast approaching the age of retirement and will no longer be eligible for any roles on any Rover Council anymore. It has been a memorable pleasure to serve and assist the Rovers in Sydney North for the last three years in various roles and I look forward to seeing what you guys get up to before I am Booted later this year.

As always, if you have any questions or there is anything you need, I am only an email away!

Yours in Rovering,  
Elyse Versace.



Nick Bassett

**Service Co-Ordinator**

(Normanhurst Rover Crew)



From the Black Summer Bushfires in 2019-2020, to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Rovers of Sydney North have all been tested in different ways. From the effects of last year's lockdown forcing us to basically never leave our homes except for the most exceptional of circumstances, many of us never got to see our fellow friends in Rovers for weeks if not months.

Even when restrictions slowly started to ease, the limits placed on gatherings made it difficult to not just do any kind of service, but even have our whole Rover Units come together. So, unfortunately many of our Units' Service programs were just simply unviable. Gone were the Lifeline bookfairs, gone was the Oxfam Trailwalker, the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic, and the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Martin Place. However, I would still like to commend those Rovers who still participated in the Driveway Dawn Services in uniform. This was an excellent way to make sure you still paid your respects as Rover Scouts in the local community.

Some of you may have heard about this Bushfire Service Project that I seemed to endlessly remind everyone about was still actually happening and that things were going on in the background at every RRC. Well, I just thought I'd give you all a bit more background about what was going on and why I sadly had to officially pull the pin at the February 2021 RRC.

The inspiration for this project came from a talk that Neville Tomkins, the Chief Commissioner of Scouts NSW, gave at the awards presentation for Normanhurst Rovers' BP Lodge Bannerette Award for Outstanding Service in February 2020. A partnership had supposedly been established between Branch and the State Rover Council to help Rover Units apply for service projects to assist the rebuilding of those Scout Groups that had been so dreadfully impacted by that year's summer bushfire season. We had all become familiar with the sad stories coming out of the South Coast like 1<sup>st</sup> Cobargo. The financing to support such projects were to come from the Scouts NSW Emergency Relief Assistance Fund. I thought that this would have been a fantastic opportunity to do something different for Normanhurst Rovers' Service program as it would have had such a positive impact on not just those communities that had been through so much but on Scouting as a whole. From having discussions over six months between Branch and their Commissioners, the SRC and the South Coast and Tablelands Region about this was all meant to work, it appeared to me that we weren't really going anywhere about how this was all meant to work. Was Branch meant to advise the SRC about available projects to then convey to the Regions, or were we supposed to apply directly to the SRC? No one really seemed to know. With some help from a couple of Normo Rovers, we had already come up with a list of projects that we thought we'd be able to do and suggest to those affected Groups. Though they were suggestions, we would obviously do what was asked of us if it was something different the Groups selected. My overall plan for this to be the Region Service Project was for Normo to complete a couple of smaller projects just to see how the whole process played out and then expand it to include the whole SN Region Rovers. Not getting anywhere with Branch, the SRC or SCT, I went straight to the District Commissioners who were responsible for the Districts of the South Coast that were impacted by that bushfire season.

I achieved the greatest level of progress and interest from those two District Commissioners. So, I would personally like to thank Paul Hamer – DC Southern Coast and Graham McGillivray – DC Shoalhaven for their support. Sadly, and understandably, none of the Group Leaders ever got back to me. I decided it wasn't appropriate to push as it was explained to me that the GLs were likely to have greater priorities on their mind as they came to terms with the impacts of the bushfires and the pandemic, which in my view is completely understandable and I wish them all the best.

Lastly, I want to congratulate all those Units who have still been able to make time and co-ordinate themselves under the everchanging restrictions to continue to participate in Service activities in a year that has tested us all. Whether it be mowing and cleaning the Barra Brui or the West Epping halls or Turramurra's day at the Crosslands

Youth and Convention Centre. "Service" may no longer be the Rover section's official motto anymore, but I know it's still something that many of you still take very seriously.

Let's hope that we'll have had a fantastic turnout for the replacement Region Service Project, the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic on 28 March.

Thanks everyone and have a fantastic 2021,

Nick Bassett

Nick Buchner

**Regional Commissioner – Rovers**

The past year has certainly been a challenging one for all in Scouting, not least the Rover section. However it's been very pleasing to see how our Rovers have risen to that challenge, through inventive approaches to meeting nights during the lockdown periods, and getting straight back into regular activities once restrictions were eased.

It was of course disappointing that all of the major Rover events couldn't run, such as Summer Moot, State Moot, Rover Ball and CRAP Rover Dinner. In the later part of the year, it was good to see most Crews get active again with their own camps, hikes, canyoning, rockclimbing, 4WD trips, roadtrips and more. This is a big part of what great Roving is all about!



Service has been equally challenging, with all the major Scouting and community events cancelled. Regardless, Crews still found ways to participate in ANZAC Day, restarted their maintenance at the Barra Brui and West Epping halls, contributed significantly to the National Rover Plasma Challenge, assisted Lifeline with their book fairs, and supported local community events.

The Tony Balthasar Achievement Award continued to attract high quality applications from Rovers intent on undertaking an overseas adventure of a lifetime. My congratulations to Hugh Percival and Will Wade, who will hopefully be able to do their expeditions once COVID restrictions on travel are lifted. After recognising 26 awardees over a 36 year period, the fund is unfortunately now almost exhausted, so unless some new sources can be found to replenish it, this fantastic opportunity to benefit Sydney North Rovers could be at an end. We welcome all ideas!

My congratulations to Maddison Domanko from Kissing Point and Courtney Turner from Platabeen, on achieving their Baden-Powell Scout Awards during the year.

Many thanks as always, to everyone who has contributed to the ongoing high standard of Roving in Sydney North and congratulations to those who received other achievement or recognition awards.

Returning for a second term, Courtney Turner from Platabeen Rovers has capably led the RRC Exec team over the past year. Whilst it was not an easy year, with many of the RRC's operations curtailed, there was still plenty of good humour and some highlights such as a fresh take on Roventure, and running the final Rover BPS course.

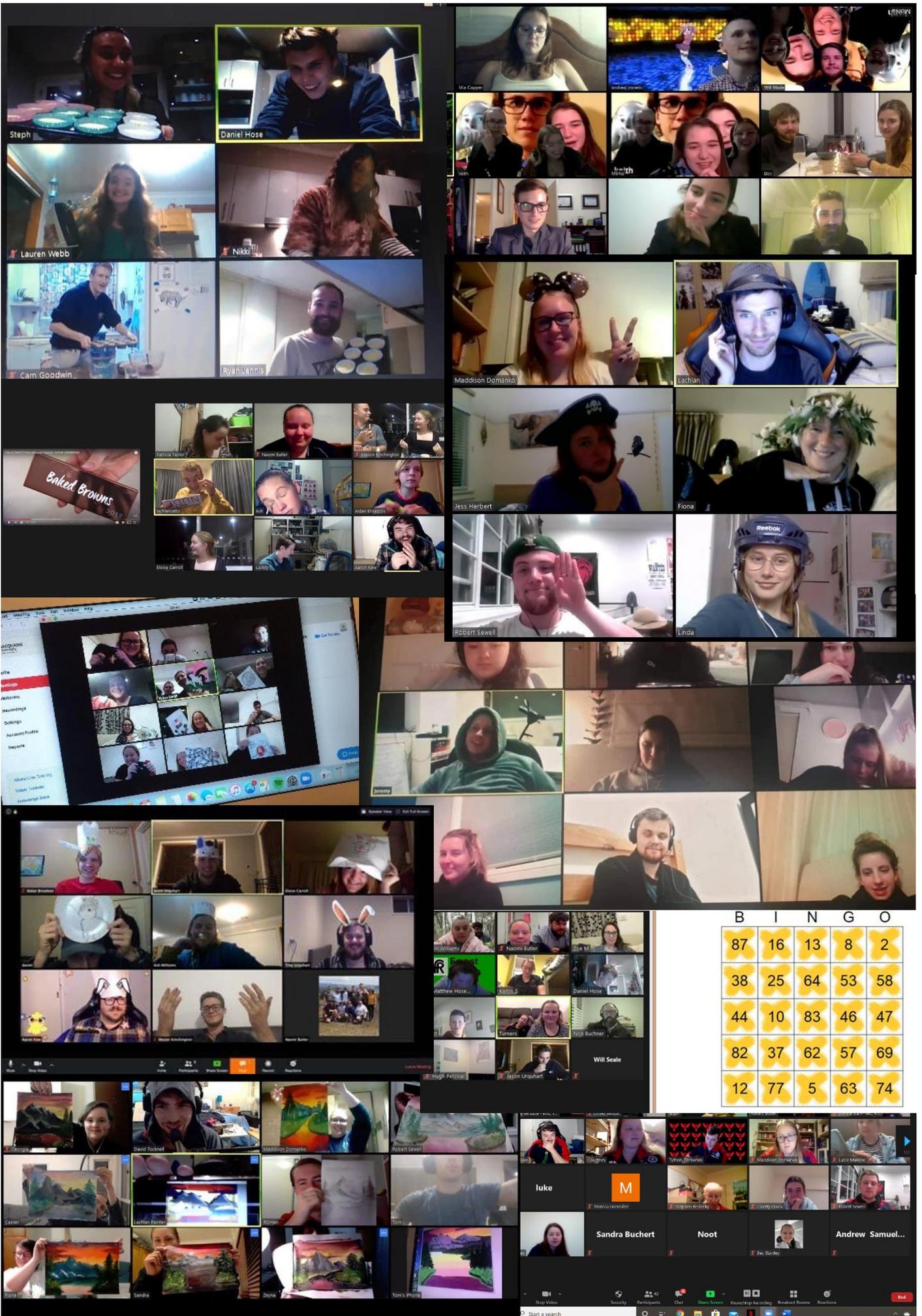
On the NSW level, Elyse Versace from Kananga Rovers is to be commended for taking on the role of Vice Chairman on the State Rover Council for 2020/21. The Region will continue to be represented on the 2021/22 SRC Executive, with Naomi Butler from Forest and Sophie Carter from Gordon taking up activities roles.

I look forward to the year ahead and working with the new Exec team to support the Rovers of Sydney North.

Yours in Roving,

Nick Buchner

Regional Commissioner – Rovers



**B I N G O**

87	16	13	8	2
38	25	64	53	58
44	10	83	46	47
82	37	62	57	69
12	77	5	63	74



**Berowra Rover Unit**  
**Unit Leader – Jack Dacey**

2020 has been a very tough year for the Unit. There was minimal engagement while in-person meetings were not allowed, and during this period of online meetings, we ran a D&D session.

Since we have been able to return to regular nights, we have done a pub night, fivesies, a games night, and a nerf gun modification night to name a few. We have been in contact with the Venturers that have turned 18 recently and we hope to see them at some of our weekly nights soon.

During this past year, we assisted our local Rotary club with their Father's Day plant sale as some service and also paid the remainder of our debts to RRC off from the Summer Moot we ran in 2019.

As we come into the new year, I hope to see our Unit recover with some new members and strong attendance at our nights.

Bring on 2021!



Brush Park Rover Crew

**Crew Leader – Zac Savva**

Brush Park have been inactive for the last 12 months, however there are big plans for 2021 to revitalise the Crew!

Watch this space!!!

## Epping Rover Unit

### Unit Leader – David Tocknell

Despite the difficulties caused by COVID-19, Epping was still able to have a fantastic year.

We began the last year in lockdown. Unable to meet in person, we quickly moved our weekly meetings online onto Zoom, and re-wrote our program. Highlights include a Minecraft night on a server run by one of our Rovers, a PowerPoint night which involved presenting PowerPoints on topics one knew nothing about, and an online MasterChef night with the theme 'orange'. We also took the opportunity of being stuck at home to re-write our Constitution and Position Descriptions, as well as add a new Fundraising Officer position. As a result, we now have an up-to-date Constitution and much clearer Position Descriptions.

With the end of lockdown and our ability to return to our halls for some activities, Epping again adapted to the changing situation. With limited numbers allowed in halls, we took our nights outside. This included a bike hike around North Epping, a beach night (which had some E1 errors involved), and fireside business meetings. The requirement to find new ways of running activities has been a boon, and our fireside business meetings will become our 'new normal' for winter business meetings.



This period also saw an increase of weekend activities. Several Epping Rovers participated in a day hike in Cowan. Epping also held a successful Christmas camp at Dunn's Swamp campground, where we enjoyed our time canoeing and walking.

The arrival of 2021 has seen Epping Rovers continue to become more active. A successful ice-blocking night was run with Moocooboolah Venturers, which was a perfect opportunity to show them the cool stuff Rovers can do. We also held a stick-mapping night and a construction night, combining both outdoor fun as well as practicing important knotting and navigation skills. At the end of our stick-

mapping night, we also welcomed two new Rovers to the Unit, Caelan and Gemma. Epping also has two more keen individuals joining us regularly and who are on their way to be invested also.

2020 was a difficult year, but Epping has managed to turn these difficulties into opportunities at every turn. We remain a strong, active Unit who are excited for another year of great Rovering ahead of us.



## Forest Rover Crew

### Crew Leader – Naomi Butler

What a fantastic year Forest Rovers has had! We have said goodbye to some of our members and welcomed some new members! Like everyone else, we ventured online during the lockdowns of 2020. This was a change and was difficult at times, but we made our way through it and came out better on the other side.



The Crew found new ways to grow our skills and strengthen our Crew family. We tried our hand at craft-skills, make up skills and playing Pictionary. We enjoyed our inter-Crew nights with other Rovers in the Region, joining in on Region Zoom meetings and more.



Our skills grew and grew this year with now five members trained to be Crew Leader. We attended the last face-to-face BPS course in our Region and are happy to see members of the Crew step up to gain experience and higher positions. We also had a member attend the Youth Mental Health First Aid course that ran in November of 2020.

We were very excited to meet back in person and get back to our Roving in a COVID-safe manner. With this came the freedom of being able to camp and we were excited to get out and about again. We headed on a Crew camp to Sugee Bag for and enjoyed visiting some lovely waterfalls just a bit north of the camp. Just to add to this we had our first overnight hike as a Crew, we enjoyed the weekend and getting back into hiking.

As we spend more time outdoors and enjoying everything Australia has to offer, we have been gaining our skills in adventurous activities. We even had some friends from the rockcraft team take us out on a canyoning weekend which was great!

The Crew carried out some great service when possible by helping place orienteering posts at Ingleside, to mowing Bara Bruie after the lockdown. Needless to say, it was a lot of fun and a lot of work. We also had members donate blood and plasma to the Australian Red Cross. As we grew in our interest of Land Care, we connected with a local group near our hall. We have helped with removing weeds and maintaining native plants in the reserve. We also had a great time then learning all about the specific flora to our local community. We also joined with Platabeen Rovers and participated in Clean Up Australia Day around our hall. We collected four square metres worth, including large pieces of furniture!



Obviously with the great global pandemic this year we could not run our check-point at the annual Hawkesbury Canoe Classic as it was cancelled. To add to this, we unfortunately had to cancel our very beloved Clause for A Cause due to the restrictions on NSW.

As a Crew, we are extremely proud of how far we have come. We were recognised with a Quality Rovering Award from the New South Wales State Rover Council for our great efforts in producing a wide and exciting program and our wonderful Ash got a Rover Recognition Award for her service in the past year!

To sum up it has been a challenging yet fun year for us at Forest and we can't wait to have a ripper in 2021!



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Gordon Rover Crew

### Crew Leader – Kate Canao

2020 was a difficult year across the globe, however, we like to think that at 2<sup>nd</sup> Gordon Rover Crew we made the most of it. In Feb 2020, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gordon Venturers and Rovers won Roventure, and were given the opportunity to run it for 2021. Roventure was a blast, and with our heads fuzzy with victory we agreed to organise it for 2021.



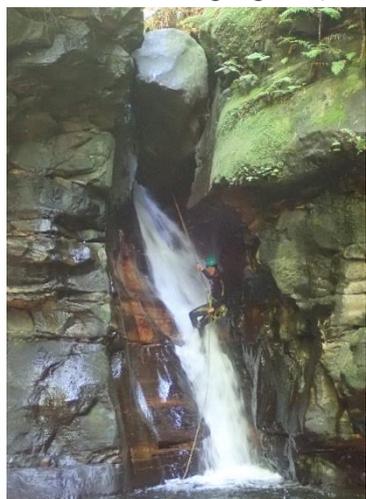
However, shortly after this, we went into lock-down due to COVID-19. Unfortunately, this meant our Bushfire Trivia Night Fundraiser for WIRES and RFS was cancelled. However, we stayed positive and started Scouting from home. For a couple months we enjoyed weekly catch ups involving drawing via Zoom, yoga via Zoom, movie nights via Zoom, and many other iterations of Zoom activities. Obviously, as soon as the opportunity to catch up face-to-face came around, we were instantly on it (in a COVID-safe manner).

In June we were able to meet face-to-face again, after what felt like ages! So, in classic Gordon fashion we made the most of being able to see each other again, and seemingly did every two-hour night hike in the local area over the next two months. Highlights included the Shelly Beach to Manly walk where we all grabbed ice cream at the end, abseiling nights, and a campfire where we had the whole Crew (plus a couple of extras) together for the first time in months.

August bought our first Crew camp of the year, and unfortunately the booting of a long-term member. Our Crew went down to Jervis Bay to enjoy a weekend of sun, surf, diving, kayaking and snorkelling, as well as saying goodbye to Marcus Swift. It was a great weekend, full of laughs, giggle juice, outdoor activities and loads of group bonding.



From here we were able to get back into the hall, and we enjoyed many a games night and cooking challenges, of course dispersed between abseiling nights, (more) night hikes, kayaking and dog related activities. In particular we



had a few older venturers join us for the classic flour bomb fight, then had a great turn out when we ran bubble soccer for the whole 2<sup>nd</sup> Gordon Venturer Unit. It was pretty epic.

We also had a good turnout at the 2nd Gordon Group's fertiliser drive, it was a good team effort, and hence, it wasn't too crappy a day.

In January we had another Crew camp (and another booting), staying at Cathedral of Ferns in Mt Wilson. Here we completed North Bowen Lower canyon on the Saturday, where Charlotte Mason and Luke Barnett taught us more about releasable systems in canyons. We smashed the canyon pretty quickly and spent the afternoon at the campground, with an amazing cheese platter, nice fire, and a couple drinks. On this weekend we booted Dave Richards, another long-term member. We were lucky enough to get to spend some time with 1<sup>st</sup> Asquith Scouts over this weekend, and they kindly invited us to join their Scouts Own on Sunday morning.

With the uncertainty around COVID-19 we made the difficult decision to cancel the Roventure 2021: The Five-Ring Challenge of Olympia, and instead hold a one-day Roventure event. This turned into Roventure 2021: Voyage for a Vaccine. It was a massive success, with Forest Rovers together with Belrose Venturers winning the day!

Over the past year our Crew has made a particular effort to get outside whenever possible, and have especially been focusing on upskilling in the canyoning/abseiling department. A big thank you to Charlotte Mason and Luke Barnett, who have run many training and practical nights throughout the last year to help us all! Additionally, many of our Crew are getting out and about in March into more canyoning, with the upcoming Region canyoning course and white-water course run by Luke and Charlotte.



Finally, a quick mention that the Crew is so proud of Charlotte Mason for her Balthasar Award application. We really hope you get it! We can't wait for you to go to Scotland, learn all these new crazy canyoning skills and come home and teach us!

Let's hope 2021 has less lock-downs, and more outdoors!



## Kananga Rover Crew

### Crew Leader – Will Seale

Kananga started 2020 with an increase in membership from the previous year, with many more Venturers looking to move up in the coming months. While there were many challenges this year, our Crew was able to persevere and are ready to head into 2021 stronger than before!

We were thankfully able to get attendance at some events that were held early in the year, such as Roventure, South Coast & Tablelands Moot, and the BPS Course run by Sydney North.

While meeting online still allowed us to communicate, we were eager to return to in-person meetings in mid-June.



A return to in-person Scouting also allowed us to hold more Squiring and Knighting ceremonies, doubling our number of fully invested Rovers in the Crew. This year also saw our very own Elyse Versace hold a position on the NSW Rover Council as Vice-Chairperson, while also being Training Co-ordinator for Sydney North Rovers.

Looking ahead to 2021, we aim to focus on more adventurous and outdoor activities and Crew camps, and retain a strong relationship with our Venturer Units.

## Kissing Point Rover Unit

### Unit Leader – Lachlan Painter

It is no surprise that Kissing Point Rovers had an eventful start to the year with the Coronavirus pandemic sending Sydney into lockdown. But that certainly did not stop us from making the best of what the year had to offer. With many meetings taking place on the online video chat platform Zoom, we decided to brighten the mood up and have a weekly costume theme along with our activities. This ranged from Togas for our Origami night through to funny hats with Turramurra for our joint Trivia Night. While the Zoom meetings kept us going through until the other side of the lockdown, Kissing Point was eager to get outdoors again, getting into activities like night hikes and rockclimbing.



2020 saw the Unit lose a few members turning 26 including Maddi, Alex, and Jess. And although the pandemic prevented us from having a ceremony for the most part, we were able to having a fitting ceremony and farewell for Maddi and will be doing a belated booting for Jess soon in 2021.

But while some of our members aged out, this saw the introduction of some new and keen members join the Unit such as Georgia, Toby, Pat. And with more new members on the way in 2021, we hope to see some fresh faces, and great new activities that will see the Unit be more active and engaging than ever!

Some of our other activity highlights included visiting the local Sikh Temple, which was a great learning experience for all who attended. As well as a weekend day trip to Taronga Zoo while wearing our own self-made Tie Dye shirts (there may have been a counting contest as to how many Zoo staff complimented us on the shirts).

As 2020 seemed to fly by despite all the restrictions on activities, Kissing Point were able to run their annual Christmas Tree Fundraiser again in 2020. But this time with a twist, due to low Unit numbers towards the end of 2020, Kissing Point reached out to 2<sup>nd</sup> Turramurra Venturers for some assistance with the Christmas Trees. This was a massive success, and not only was it a success for the Christmas Trees in helping support the Unit, by selling out all the trees within two hours of opening, it was a great bonding



activity with 2<sup>nd</sup> Turramurra Venturers, and we hope to get involved a lot more with the Venturer Unit in 2021.



While most events that involved the Region and State were cancelled, Kissing Point Rovers decided to organise their own big project with a 10-day road trip down the South Coast of NSW over the summer holidays at the beginning of 2021. A successful trip overall with only three months of planning needed, the Unit visited many iconic locations including Jervis Bay, Jamberoo, Kiama, Jindabyne, and Goulburn. One of the biggest achievements for many members of the Unit was completing the Main Range track from Charlotte's Pass to Rawson's pass, and then summiting Mt Kosciuszko. Where we then successfully invested Toby and Pat into the Unit at the summit.

With the Unit now having some fresh faces, and a vibrant atmosphere, the 2021-2022 period is looking to be exciting with some great activities including bike hikes, and hopefully more Unit trips in the works.



## Mount Colah/Mount Kuring-Gai Rover Crew

### Crew Leader – Stuart Fone

Well, 2020 was a little weird! MCMK Rover Crew started off the year by booting one of our most beloved Crew Leaders and Crew members, Andrew Dean. MCMK looked for 2020 to be a year of adventure and travelling around on Crew camps. Really developing an identity for our Crew as having a good time on weekends with camping and enjoying our weekday nights. COVID screwed that all up by forcing us to respect the Government and Scouts Australia's restrictions. So, we adjusted and met online as frequently as we could, playing online games and quizzes and doing what we could remotely. We spent a good third of the year trying to maintain our little family and enjoying Rovers as best we could online. When we were allowed back into the world, we took advantage of it.



In 2020, we managed to grow our family by adding Andre Lamb from Waitara Venturers, Gwyneth Jansen from MCMK Venturers and Sabrina Moss from the street.

We said goodbye to Andrew Dean, Michelle Porter, Sam Gibbons and Harry Gibbons. We at MCMK thank them for their service and their time at MCMK Rovers and we wish them all the best for the future.

One of the big passions within the Crew is Hornsby Gang Show. Some of our Crew 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, teach the youth members in many aspects of stagecraft and technical behind the scenes skills. Sadly, this past year, Hornsby Gang Show was cancelled due to COVID-19 but MCMK Rovers still played a strong part in developing the show.

We tried making the most out of this year's opportunities to mesh with the Region. We attended the online RRC meetings and due to COVID-19, there were no Region events or larger activities to attend.

Earlier in the year, we had begun a service project in helping build a walking ramp for Baden Powell Scout Centre in Pennant Hills. We had created a foundation for the ramp to be implemented but then complications arose, and we had to discontinue the project.... plus, COVID hit



During COVID, we mastered the art of online games and quizzes, as well as drawing activities. We tried an online murder mystery which worked out better than expected! Once COVID-19 settled down and we could resume our Monday activities, we hit the ground running. It took some time to figure out what we could and couldn't do but we met regardless and made sure we had fun doing it. We started off with mini-golf, bouldering and then an in-person Murder Mystery. Other exciting nights included: pottery; Escape Rooms; and Halloscream on Halloween at Luna Park. We also seem to have found our favourite Summer Vennie/Rover activity: Slip 'n Slide Kick Ball! It was a massive hit with both MCMK and Waitara/East Wahoonga Venturers! In September, we were able to add two more Knights to our MCMK Round

Table with Kellie Chilvers and Georgia Muxlow. They completed their necessary tasks and contributed a visual history of MCMK Rovers for our Den wall as their Crew Contribution, and we can't wait to see what they achieve!

At MCMK, we are thankful that we managed to stay united and strong through this difficult and strange year and we look forward to seeing what we can achieve in 2021.

## Normanhurst Rover Crew

### Crew Leader – Daniel Hose

As I reflect on the year that was 2020 I can safely say that I don't think anyone could have ever predicted back in January what the year was to throw at us and the many adaptations we would need to implement to try and continue safe and fun Scouting for all. While 2020 has been a tough and different year for everyone at Normo with everything from bushfires to a global pandemic and the lockdowns, everyone in the Crew has continued to put their best foot forward and has made the most of this unique situation we found ourselves in. Despite many setbacks, Normo has continued to stay active and involved in everything Scouting with plenty of activities, camps and events that have kept us busy throughout the year.



Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic meant many annual staples of the Normo program such as Dragonskin and Summer Moot were cancelled, and weekly activities were moved online. Despite these restrictions, Normo continued to meet throughout the pandemic running a host of successful activities over Zoom such as Trivia nights, MasterChef nights, home yoga and physical fitness as well as a host of other online nights and games. During this time, many Normo Rovers also took part in the COVID-safe Dawn Service by making their way to the end of their driveways and listening to the last post as it was played via radio.

Although Normo continued to plan and organise our annual Magical Mystery Tour (MMT) throughout this pandemic, as restrictions continued it soon became obvious that we would be unable to run this iconic event. Due to this, the tough decision was made to postpone the event to the following year making it the first year that the event has not be run in over 32 years. Hopefully, the restrictions will ease in 2021 and we look forward to seeing everyone returning for MMT Drag Race in 2021.



As the biggest Crew in the State with over 50+ members on the books, Normo was very much delayed in being able to return the face-to-face meetings as restrictions on gatherings were eased slowly. In July, restrictions were finally eased enough to enable the Crew to meet back together, however a lot of work was needed by Crew and Normanhurst Scout Group to not only get the hall ready to meet COVID-safe guidelines but also to continue to maintain them by sanitising and implementing social distancing whenever we met. I was particularly proud of the way everyone in Normo co-operated and did their bit to help out.

Normo was luckily to be able to regain some sense of normality to our Wednesday night meetings when the initial lockdown restrictions were eased in July. For the rest of the year, Normo has successfully adapted to the changing conditions and run many awesome and successful nights such as Bob Ross painting, rockclimbing with the Venturers, campfires and so many others that I can't even begin to list.

Despite the shake up this year, Normo continued to be active on the service front helping to give back in many different ways throughout the year. The Crew first participated in the yearly Region Service Project helping to clean up the Lindfield Rocks areas that had been severely damaged in the storms at the beginning of the year. As always Normo continued to do their part for the Scouting movement by helping to garden and mow the communal Barra Brui Scout Hall.

Normo has continued our support of the Lifeline book fairs during 2020 and with COVID, we were able to continue to help by stocking many of the smaller pop-up bookstores, in and around the Hornsby area. Finally, Normo

participated in the National Rover Service Challenge to see which Crew could donate the most blood and plasma to the Red Cross Lifblood. Due to the outstanding effort of the Crew during this period I was so proud to see us awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place with the most donations made in the Sydney North Region and 4<sup>th</sup> place nationwide.



Even with COVID, Normo has continued to rake in many awards throughout the year. Normo was once again presented a Quality Rovering Award by the SRC, for continuing to provide all-round successful balanced programs that encapsulate everything Rovering. Furthermore, Normo for the second year in a row cleaned up at the ROSCARS, winning the award for “Most Outstanding Crew” as well as “Best Activity” for our running of Roventure 2020. A huge congratulations also must go once again to Donna Staff who not only was awarded both the “Rover Recognition Award” and well-deserved “Most Outstanding Rover” for her tireless effort and commitment to the Rover section over her time with Normo.

As my term as Crew Leader draws to a close, I would like to thank the great executive team at Normo for this year including Steph Vorreiter, Tamara Dudfield, Daniel Draper, Nick Bassett, and Aiden Hose. These guys have really helped to keep the Crew running this challenging year and without their tireless efforts behind the scenes, Normo would most certainly not run as smoothly as it does. A big BRAVOOO and thanks to the outgoing executive team for your time, commitment and effort -you guys really help to make Crew leading look easy.

Our Rover Adviser, Alex Motyka, is also someone who must be thanked for helping to steer Normo during this pandemic. Whether running a night, turning up to just say hello and check in or organising one of the many outdoor activities for all of us to attend, Alex was constantly there to ensure that COVID did not get the better of any one member in the Crew.

To everyone in Normo, thank-you for everything that every one of you has done to be part of our great Crew this year. It has not been easy, but all of you have continued to show the Scouting Movement and the world what it means to be a Normo Rover, and how great it truly is, despite everything that the year threw at us.

They say, “what doesn’t kill you only makes you stronger” and after all the changes and challenges that Normo has overcome in 2020 I can only see even better and bigger things for Normo as we roll into 2021. With the Crew continuing to grow and many Rovers stepping up to take on new positions both at Crew, Region and State levels I just know 2021 will be an amazing year for Normo.

As always, it’s been an amazing experience Crew leading these fantastic people and I couldn’t ask for a better Scouting family or Crew. If you’re ever around Normanhurst on a Wednesday night, please pop in and say hello we’d love to see you! BRAVOOO Normo and let’s bring on 2021!



## Platabeen Rover Unit

### Unit Leader – Kacie Turner

What an absolute banger of a year it has been!!!! I have been so lucky to have led Platabeen through a pretty big year, considering not a great deal could really happen!

We started this year with the lovely RRC AGM, our first online meeting for the year, where Courtney Turner, Lucie Malone, Oliver Mouat and I all took on roles on the RRC Exec (Beaches forever!). Following this, just like many other Units, Platabeen ventured into the realm of 'online Scouting' and boy did we absolutely smash it! From craft nights, joint nights, to DnD, all the way through to scavenger hunts and even a book club, we managed to remain completely active throughout the first initial lockdown! Big shoutout to our RA Colin Turner who was kind enough to pay for our Zoom subscription during the past year, so we could continue to meet weekly! During these months, we also participated in the Region run online bingo event, which although small in attendance, was an absolute hoot!



Once we could return to face-to-face Scouting, we did not miss a beat in beginning to organise a Unit camp and jump straight back in! We invested two new members Keeley and Josie, who joined whilst we were online, and started straight back into our regular Sunday antics! We jumped straight back into fun nights like Bubble Soccer, Bouldering and our regular night hikes. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions at the time, we were unable to hold our annual Stingy Iron Chef competition in the middle of the year, but that only means everyone can be better prepped for our comp this year!

Over the October long weekend, we travelled down south for our first Unit camp since lockdown to Cooma where we spent the weekend at our RA's property which was quite fire damaged at the beginning of 2020. Over this weekend, we held our last 'Knighting' of long-term member Nathan Watkins,



who had completed all the requirements before we transitioned to the New Youth Program. We also said goodbye to the lovely Zoe McLaughlin. Zoe joined our Unit quite late in her Roving life, but we are so thankful for her contributions and commitment she made to the Unit!



The Unit also participated in service activities across the year, with many rolling up their sleeves to donate blood and plasma for the Red Cross Lifeblood, and a number of Rovers volunteering their time at JOTA/JOTI. We mowed the lawns at Barra Brui Hall, participated in Clean up Australia Day, and we had eight members helping at the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic!

In December, I was awarded a Rover Recognition Award for my service and commitment in the last year! During the last 12 months, Courtney Turner earned her Community Development Badge, for her 'Its In The Bag' drive for Share the Dignity, filling around 80 handbags for women in need, and her Personal Growth Badge for learning Swedish for 12 months. These were the last two she needed to complete her Baden-Powell Scout Award! She is the second in our Unit's history to complete the peak award, and we are so proud of her!



During 2020 we had two of members complete their Youth Mental Health First Aid Course. This is such an important course to complete, and I am looking forward to more and more people being trained in this area!

To bring in 2021, we went away again down to Austinmer for Australia Day, where we listened to the Hottest 100 at the beach, and said goodbye to another long standing member John Miles-Craig. John had been a member since he was 18, however lived abroad for many of his Rover years. This didn't stop him from attending many events and being an active member of the Unit!

Unfortunately, our long awaited DeMOOTcracy 2020, which turned in to 2021, had to be cancelled for good 😞 With the restrictions still around for large scale events, we didn't think it would be responsible and safe to hold it. After our two years of work, it is safe to say we are extremely disappointed, however, we are looking forward to events starting up in the next year and to see what others are planning on organising!

2020 didn't pan out the way anyone had hoped, however I am so impressed with the resilience the Unit showed over the past year, and what we are capable of in the future!

Bring on 2021 Platabeen, you da best <3



## Turrumurra Rover Crew

### Crew Leader – William Wade

The word unprecedented has been thrown around a lot these past twelve months. An unprecedented change in the way we work, study, and do Scouting. However, it is with great pride that I have observed a strong commitment to outdoor adventure, individual growth, and community service within 1<sup>st</sup> Turrumurra Rover Crew – an unprecedented move of itself. As a year, 2020 has tested many to their limits, but proven to be the catalyst for us as a mostly young and dynamic Crew to grow closer and develop from strength to strength.



We felt the writing on the wall when we hosted our still life painting night in late March 2020. However, our Sunday nights continued almost uninterrupted for the entire year, in spite of the two-month lockdown. Notable virtual nights include a formal dinner, presentation night, and a joint trivia night with Kissing Point. We welcomed back in-person Roving with a (socially distant) campfire night and continued strong with hot exercise, craft, and golf nights.



We sorely missed camping and adventurous activities, a staple of the Crew's programming. It was for this reason that we were some of the first to navigate the Scouting Guide to Coronavirus policies and return to small scale trips. Keith Perry ran a 4-day Blue Lake ski and ice-climb trip, and Harry Day ran several weekend-long beginner cross-country ski trips, both for the Crew and the Region. We went camping and 4WDing on Blacksmiths Beach and spent the October long weekend at Glenrock Scout Camp.

We ran several activities with our Venturer Units, restrictions permitting, including an Indiana Jones themed night at Big Pump Cave with Turrumurra and a blind drop with Roselea. As did the Venturers, we missed Dragonskin and look forward to more opportunities in 2021.

Our Summer was an absolute whirlwind and we spent nearly every weekend mountain biking, canyoning, 4WDing or rockclimbing, either as leaders at Region Courses, or organising our own trips. It was during this latter half of the year that we officially Booted Harry Day, Nick Macfarlane and Mike Ashelford and said farewell to Katherine Lockman, who we congratulate for completing her Baden-Powell Scout Award.

It is with great sadness that we were unable to run Harbour Cruise this year, the people spoke their minds and the "Tom Cruise" won the popular vote, setting itself up to be one for the ages. Nevertheless, the Crew anticipates the day when we can return this event to the annual calendar.

We also commenced our transition to the New Youth Program, with Harry running a workshop and round table discussion to decide how we see the Crew progressing in the future.





I must thank the 2020 executive for all the work they have done this year- Mia Capper, Harry Day, Grace Johnson, Alyssa Markey, Darcy Dunkin, Keith Perry, Georgia North, Lachlan Buchner and Max Tobin. You have kept the Crew together this year and without your tireless efforts behind the scenes I do not think we would have been able to run the quality program we did.

Despite an unprecedented year, and one with challenges we never would have thought of in March 2020, I firmly believe that the Crew is in a stronger place now than it was 12 months ago, a testament to the calibre of young members who have joined in recent years.

I look forward to seeing what 2021 has in store!

## Yaralla Rover Crew

### Crew Leader – Sarah Berlecky

2020 was an eventful year for Yaralla Rover Crew which saw the farewell of two members and the booting of a third. It also saw the investitures of two new members who have seamlessly made themselves a part of the Crew and feel like they have been there their whole lives. While the Crew did not have any members on the RRC Executive, they did hold the record for the highest percentage Crew attendance for RRC Meetings. The Crew also furthered their training with members attending the SNR Treasurers Course and all members attending the February 2021 BPS Course where they learned all manner of things.



While the Crew started the year optimistically preparing for Dragonskin and Scout Hike these did not proceed. However, the Crew remained busy by building relations with more Crews and Units than ever before.



Inter-Crew nights both online and in person expanded with activities from Minecraft over Zoom with Kananga to a Night Hike to the Cityview Lookout with Normanhurst. The Crew joined Platabeen on a couple of occasions to not only test out their cooking skills but to also find out who the killer was at a How to Host a Murder Dinner Party. With Kissing Point they went on a Goosechase through the streets of Turramurra to enact some wildlife scenes and parkour. And with Epping they shared a love of horror and scavenger hunts with a Halloween Night.

Yaralla Rover Crew is only small, so we loved joining with the local Venturer Units to partake in some shenanigans. With the Yaralla Vennies they fulfilled

their sense of environmental care with a Mangrove Planting Night and got a bit more competitive with an Olympics Night. This saw the Vennies battling it out in a Heptathlon including Basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, Curling, Shooting, Hammerthrow, Javelin and Discuss to take a spot on the podium.

Additionally, they continued to join forces to sell Christmas Trees which is both the Crew and Unit's biggest fundraising event of the year. Venturers from Meadowbank led them on a Goosechase which saw them very

apologetically employing the help of some local businesses to assist in completing the tasks. Moocooboolah Vennies joined the Crew for a night of paddling on Parramatta River taking in the sites. The Crew also hosted an event for the entire Yaralla Group, which saw all sections represented, to the Australian Scout Museum via canoe. The attendees had great fun making water rockets and paper cup prisons and firing air vortexes.



While stuck at home, the Crew kept their minds busy with Origami, Trivia and Pictionary. While their creativity was expanded with Bob Ross Painting nights and Cooking Nights. They also kept active with a Yoga night. While in person they completed lots of planning, did some Aussie cooking adventures, had a PJ party and even some Ice Skating.



Service has maintained an important part of the Crew's identity with a morning driveway vigil on ANZAC Day. They also assisted the Group in repairing the sea wall damage so that members could get back onto the water faster. They also assisted in the upkeep of West Epping Hall and made multiple donations as part of the Rover Plasma Challenge with the RA even joining in.

The Crew is excited to see what 2021 has in store and is already planning for bigger things to come!





