



Sydney North Region Annual Report

1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023



Scouts
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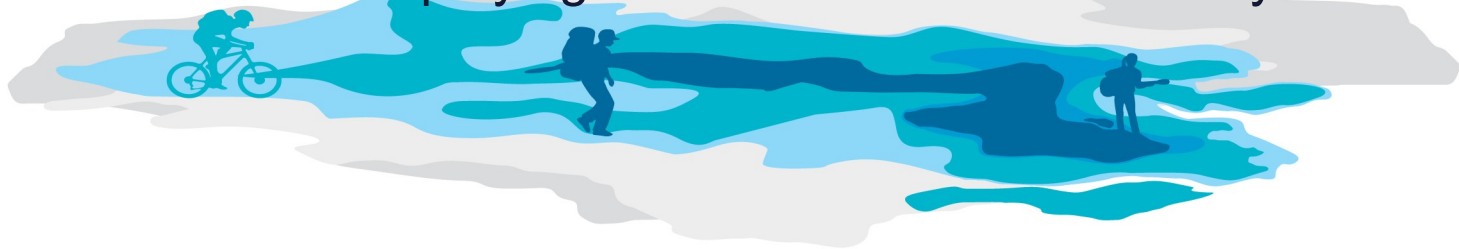
Vision

Through fun and friendship, Scouts NSW will inspire and create resilient young people and adults, by developing skills for life and contributing to our community.



Mission

Scouting develops and empowers youth by gaining life skills and a value system, based on the Scout Promise and Law, building a better world and playing a constructive role in society.



President's Note



For our 20/21 and 21/22 Scout Years, Covid was the dominant factor in our lives. So how wonderful it is to now be able to look back on 22/23 as the year that we largely returned to normal life. Not that we can really call Scouting in Sydney North Region “normal” – a reading of the various Sectional, District and Region team contributions to this Region Annual report shows yet again that Scouting provides amazing opportunities for this Movement of young people to “learn by doing”, especially via the adventurous outdoor activities which have always been fundamental to Scouting throughout the world.

While the local Group is where Scouting happens in our community, our District and Region teams play a fundamental role in supporting the Groups in their delivery of Scouting to our young people, and in Sydney North we are very fortunate in having District and Region teams who fulfill this task admirably:

Region Commissioner Kerry Griffin and his Region and District Commissioners
Region Chairman Phil Cooper, Treasurer Doug Menzies and the Region Executive
Committee members
Region office team of Donna and Belinda

Thank you all for your continued efforts to ensure that the administration, financial, property and safety aspects of Scouting are as effective, efficient and painless as possible.

At State level, Neville Tomkins has retired from the very demanding role of Chief Commissioner after 6 ½ years of untiring service, and we welcome Lloyd Nurthen as our new State leader.

On a personal note, I was not much younger than Lloyd when in 1971 my leader appointment changed from Assistant Senior Scout Leader at 2/3 Lindfield to Branch Commissioner for Senior Scouts, with the immediate task of joining the National team finalising the design of the Venturer Section, and then leading the introduction of Venturing in NSW, which officially happened on 1 May 1973. So Venturing is now 50 years young, and in my (unbiased) view, better than ever.

To all, let's work together to make 22/23 the greatest Scouting year of all time.

Dr Neil Mattes OAM
Region President

Chairman's Note

An illustration of a lake scene. In the foreground, there are two people swimming in the water. In the middle ground, a person is standing on a small boat or pier. The background shows a grey, rocky shoreline under a light sky.

2022 has been a year of rebuilding for the Scouting movement and this has also been the case at the Sydney North Region. We have seen youth membership increase over this year as we recover from the impact of COVID lockdowns. However, our growth is being hindered by a lack of Adult members and this is a focus for the Regions and indeed the State.

I take the opportunity to thank our administration staff. The administration of Sydney North Region is an enormous task and we were very assisted by Dona Staff and Belinda Hose.

I would also like to thank the Regional Commissioner Kerry Griffin, ably assisted by Deputy Regional Commissioners Charles Turner and Quentin Amos. The Region Executive has also been well assisted by the Regional Treasurer Doug Menzies, whose knowledge and experience are indispensable. The Executive is very appreciative of the experience of our long-standing Region President Neil Mattes. The Committee also comprises DC's Steve Tuffs, Philip Donald and Robert Rodgers, Scouts RC Mitchell Rath and Rovers Chairperson Kacie Turner.

The major matters of operation for the Committee has been the organisation and maintenance of Region property. Several properties no longer used for Scouting purposes have been handed to the Branch. In addition, much effort and attention has been devoted to the operation, maintenance and future of the Ingleside Camp. Randall Jones has taken on the large task of bring this camp up to a standard suitable for future use by Scouting groups and commercia hirers.

Lastly and most importantly, I would like to thank all of the Leaders in the Sydney North Region for their continuing service to youth of our region. Without this dedicated group of Leaders, we would not have a successful Scouting Movement and we are greatly appreciative of their efforts.

Philip Cooper OAM
Region Chairman
Sydney North Region

The graphic features the title 'Region Commissioner's Report' in a large, bold, green font with a black outline. The text is set against a stylized background of a blue lake with white-capped waves. In the background, there are faint silhouettes of a person swimming and another person on a bicycle.

Region Commissioner's Report

It is with pleasure that I present to the Community, Scouting Friends and Supporters, the Sydney North Region's Annual Report of events of the past year.

It was good to see District and Region events taking place once again after COVID. Major events such as Scout Hike were well attended.

The change in the appointment to the Regional Team since our last yearly report has been Elyse Versace as Deputy Regional Rovers.

One of the ideals of the Scout Movement is to develop Leadership in our Youth Members. In providing Scouting to our Youth, all our experienced Leaders can and do perform a most valuable role by encouraging new younger Leaders to take up the Leadership challenge and help develop the Youth of future years. The Mentoring role of our more experienced Leaders is a critical role in the renewal process of our Leaders and therefore, the future of our Region.

I must also thank the support and positive encouragement given by our various local Members and Mayors. We look forward to an even closer association between Scouting and our community, often represented by our local Members and Mayors and the events organised by them. A Scouting presence at various events hosted by our Mayors helps to put Scouting back into the minds of our community.

To all the hard working Members of the Region Team, many thanks for your continued support and efforts during the year. The many District and Region Events held over the year demonstrates your devotion to Scouting.

To the Region Office Team, Donna and Belinda thank you for your support. Without your help and advice, much of our results would not have been achieved.

To our President, Neil Mattes, my Deputies Charles Turner and Quentin Amos, the Treasurer Doug Menzies, the Chairman Philip Cooper and the Region Executive thank you for your guidance and continued support throughout the year.

My final thanks must go to all those Uniformed and Non-uniformed Supporters in the Groups who give freely of their time, knowledge and enthusiasm. Without these dedicated, hardworking people, the excellent Scouting provided to the Youth of our Region would not be possible.

Kerry Griffin
Region Commissioner

Benowie District Report

In April 2022, was a terribly sad time for all Leaders in Benowie (and elsewhere in Sydney North Region) when we learned that our beloved Wendy “Banjora” Game, Joey Scout Leader at Berowra / Western Joey Pouch Leader and member of the Region Office had “Gone Home”. We keep Howard and the rest of her family in our thoughts.

Scouting continued successfully in Benowie, and although some Groups are struggling, we are fortunate to have several strong Groups who are prepared to assist those other Groups, while they rebuild. It was pleasing to see Normanhurst Scouts able to open a 2nd Scout Unit. That Group, as others in the District, was the recipient of a financial grant which enabled them to upgrade facilities at their hall.

With so many activities happening, I can only highlight a few.

While, unfortunately, Easter Scout Camp had to be cancelled because flooding had affected the camping ground at Crosslands, a number of Groups organised last minute alternatives, at which the Scouts had lots of fun.

Dragon Skin recommenced after a 2-year break and was well attended by Benowie Venturer Scouts.

Just a week later, there were strong turnouts at the Anzac March and Dawn Service held by Hornsby RSL.

In May, Scouts attended Scouthike, supported by Rover Scouts, Leaders and Venturer Scouts, followed by State Scout Rally in August.

Many Youth Members visited (or participated in) Gang Show and, a number of the Groups held Family or Group camps throughout the year.





The highlight for many Joey Scouts was the Hoporee at Camp Kariong in March, where apart from a number of fantastic activities (ranging from Archery to an Escape Room; discovering the various insects around the campsite and being Spies), for the first time they slept in tents by themselves, with no parents. Particular thanks to 1st Hornsby Heights which strongly supported this activity, along with leaders and parents, Rovers, Venturers and Scouts from the District. This was an extremely successful event, in no small part due to the huge effort put in by Lindy Muir who took on the role of District Joey Scout Leader (in addition to her duties at 1st Hornsby Heights).

Also in March, West Pennant Hills Cubs held a Bikethon at their local oval and raised \$1,500 for the Children's Hospital.

Otherwise, there were many Peak Awards presented to Joey Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Venturer Scouts.

Rob Rodgers

DC Benowie

Garigal District Report

It gives me great pleasure to present the Garigal District Report.

The 2022 calendar year saw us return to Scouting in a big way.

Over the 12 months, I saw Units of all shapes and sizes, out and about enjoying everything that Scouting had to offer.

The number of activities available to our members outside the Hall still continues to amaze me. We can go swimming, bushwalking, sailing, abseiling, caving, 4 wheel driving, rock climbing, flying, canoeing, skiing, snowboarding, cycling, surfing, on the flying fox, shooting and camping.

Inside the Hall, we can do so much. Cooking, rope work, craft, patrol based games, concerts, badgework and so many more.

Congratulations to all the Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, and Rovers who achieved the Peak awards. BRAVOOO to the Leaders who received awards and thank you to those Leaders that celebrated milestone years of service.

Thank you to all of the Leaders Adult Helpers, Parents, Carers, Helpers and Supporters who made Scouting a success. Each of you play a part in continuing to ensure Scouting is fun and challenging.

To the Pouch, District and Zone Leaders - Jim Baldwin, Lynne Adams and Dave Norris – thanks for all your work.

For my Group Leaders – thank you for making the effort to ensure the Halls are well maintained, the Groups are financially sound and the members have the opportunity to enjoy Scouting.

Thank you to Donna and Belinda in the Regional Office for answering my questions, providing advice and making sure things got done.

A personal highlight was attending the 22nd Australian Rover Moot in Tasmania during January with Rovers from across Australia, NSW, Sydney Nth and the Garigal District. We had a great time together at the Moot and then 4 wheel driving along Tasmania's West Coast as our expedition was great fun.

In closing, I look forward to leading all of the members of the Garigal District into 2023 and beyond. Participating in lots of different activities, in and out of uniform, making new friends, visiting new places and pushing ourselves to the limit.

I want you to join me !

Tom Miles
DC Garigal

The title 'Ku-ring-gai District Report' is written in a large, bold, green font with a black outline. It is set against a background of a stylized landscape with blue water and grey mountains.

Ku-ring-gai District Report

All Groups were extremely happy to see that Scouting life post covid was finally starting to get back to normal! And although Zoom meetings were a necessity during covid and leaders did a great job in adapting to this change, it was a difficult time and everyone is sincerely hoping that they are a thing of the past.

The delight that the youth approached their activities, meetings and events was palpable and their enthusiasm infectious. Events such as Cuboree, Scout Hike and Dragonskin were well attended by the District and thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was good to be back in the Great Outdoors!

These activities always help youth attain their badges and awards and it was a pleasure to see many attain their peak awards across all sections. Congratulations.

Although we are now 'living with covid' and restrictions have considerably eased, the effects of the last two years are being felt in several ways. One key area, which was evident at some of the events, is that skills that are normally passed on from the older youth to the younger ones has not occurred. The younger ones have missed out on this natural transfer of knowledge. So gaps in learning have been identified and are being addressed through skill learning and activities.

As a result of the pandemic, some youth lost interest in Scouting and they found other activities to do and now it is harder to entice them back. This has impacted numbers - in some areas numbers have been maintained but in other areas numbers have been reduced. This applies to youth members, leaders and adult helpers. This meant that the Programs needed to be reinvigorated. There is still a need to actively search out new youth and adult members.

Another area has been the reduced take-up of volunteering. Groups are trying to actively engage parents through family camps, family fun days and other activities.

All Groups are still mindful of their covid Safe Plans and make adjustments as required in line with NSW state government and Scouts NSW.

On behalf of the District, I would like to thank the youth members for their enthusiasm in participating in the various activities now on offer. And to the Leaders for their unwavering support and dedication to the youth.

The Support Committees continued their excellent work managing their respective Group financials, financial obligations, marketing, grant applications and fundraising to allow the district to continue delivering for the youth members.

A sincere thank you to the Sydney North Region Commissioners, leaders and support staff, with special thanks, as always, to Donna Staff and Belinda Hose at the Region Office for their wonderful support! Scouting in the Ku-Ring-Gai district, as with all districts in the Sydney north region, is in a strong and vibrant position moving into 2023.

Looking forward to an exciting and adventurous 2023.

Geoff Vaughan
Ku-Ring-Gai District Commissioner

The graphic features the title 'Lower North Shore District Report' in a large, bold, green font with a black outline. The text is set against a stylized background of a blue body of water with white-capped waves and a grey, rocky shoreline. Two small figures are visible in the water, one appearing to be swimming or paddling.

Lower North Shore District Report

Scouting simply cannot function without our wonderful volunteer Leaders who have contributed so much to the development of our Youth members. A very big thankyou to each one of you in our LNS Groups - 1st Balmoral, Cammeray, 1st Clifton Gardens, Greenwich, 1st Mosman, 3rd Mosman Bay, 1st North Sydney, 1st Northbridge, 1st Sailors Bay, 1st Willoughby and 2nd Willoughby. In addition to their regular weekly Group activities many of our Leaders enthusiastically participate in District camps, Youth Leadership Courses, Anzac Day Ceremonies plus Region, State and National activities. This year we have Leaders and Youth members in the Australian Contingent going to Korea for the 25th World Scout Jamboree.

As the Covid era restrictions recede further into the past this year the District has seen an increase in activity including Camping, Sailing, Canoeing and Adventurous Activities with members improving skills. The Cub Section are especially working on their skills including camping as we look forward to the NSW Cuboree later this year.

In addition to the usual Group and District level activities and training, LNS participated in bigger events including Sirius Cup, Dragon Skin, Scout Hike and State Rally. We were particularly successful at Scout Hike this year with a Sailors Bay Patrol winning the patrol competition and the Northbridge /North Sydney collaboration on their “Dr Strange” base winning the best Activity Base award.

Steve Tufts
District Commissioner

Moocooboolah District Report

Joey numbers in Moocooboolah have stayed stable through our COVID year, six active mobs, Beecroft, Epping, East Ryde, North Ryde, Meadowbank and Roselea.

Thanks to Stephen Rooke of Eastwood Marsfield group for taking on the role of DCSL late in the year, and thanks to Steven Green for the year of service in the role, whilst on other duties as well at 1st East Ryde. Stephen Rooke has jumped right in with District councils and events. Cubs numbers increased across the district from 196 to 245.

Mitch Leggo and Geoff Ward continue to share the DSL role, with a welcome return to Scouthike, and other camping events. Special thanks again to Mathew (Shaggy) Lim of Epping Group, for his wonderful assistance in activities in Moocooboolah district and elsewhere, particularly in water activities. Numbers down about 10 % to 210, should be back up again in next year or 2 with the increase in Cub numbers.

This year saw 1st Meadowbank's Venturer unit in recess, with a few Venturers joining East Ryde. District total stable at 56. Putney has opened a Venturer unit, ably assisted by VSL Pete Evans, Beecroft, Brush Park, East Ryde, Epping, and Roselea units running well. The numbers of Venturers continuing to Rovers is still unfortunately rather low, though plenty enjoyed Roventure at Camp Coutts this year, organised by Epping Rovers with Epping, East Ryde and Boronia Venturers.

Sadly in October we lost our eldest district elder, at 101 and 9 months, 1st North Ryde's Norma Notley OAM, she is missed by all that knew her. Thanks to our Chief Commissioner then, Neville Tomkins OAM for presenting the eulogy at her funeral.



Camp Windeyer has picked up in post Covid bookings. Thanks again to Paul Dadd of 1st Meadowbank for his Warden duty assisting me, and his teams of Rovers or ex Rovers assisting with various jobs. Thanks also to Neil Carey of 1st Boronia for some warden duty too. The “Cub Kitchen” renewal is almost complete, with a shiny new 6m x 6m shelter at the western end of the hut built. Thanks to Dan Hose, Normanhurst Rover taking it on as a BP project, for getting stuck in with that, and a team of volunteers too many to mention, (except for his dad Greg of 1st Hornsby Heights finding more than a few hours of spare time to assist!).

January saw the retirement of Maxine and Bruce Hill, the wardens at the Seventh Day Adventist Crosslands Convention centre, Camp Windeyer will miss them, though they have popped in a couple of times already. Lynne and Norm Roberts have taken on the role, please say hi, and thank them for their help, if you see them on the way through their property to ours.

Cameron Jessep
DC Moocooboolah

Northern Beaches District Report

A graphic featuring the title 'Northern Beaches District Report' in large, green, outlined letters. The text is set against a background of a stylized beach scene with blue waves, a grey sky, and a person swimming in the water.

In the aftermath of Covid the 9 groups in the District settled back into a more normal scouting program and finished the year with 463 youth and leader members.

The groups and committees worked hard on recruiting youth & leaders and overall this was successful. There were several nights of Bring a Friend and LeaderBuild presentations.

The Joeys, meet in 4 of the Groups with 22 members overall and together with the assistance of combined meetings and the input of district leaders they were able to experience all the scouting adventures. My thanks to Jim Baldwin as Wandarra leader who met regularly with the joeys & leaders and organised combined Mob activities, fun days & mob holidays.

Our 10 Cub pack numbers dropped from 200 to 175 during the period but I see a trend of interest in the packs as the programmes incorporate all the elements of the scouting program. On the Northern Beaches we are particularly blessed with having National Parks and waterways to be enjoyed all year long. My thanks to Jonathan Wood and his district members who met regularly to map out plans for the Cubs.

The Scouts put the “out” in Scouting as the leaders train the patrols in camping and hiking. Scouthike saw a good registration and the scouts are keen to test their skills in the outdoors again.

With the help of Tom Miles and Colin Turner the 9 troops ended up the year with 99 members. These scouts had a wide range of activities to test their skills.

Venturers. The year saw a consolidation of the Units getting together for mutual activities. They were off to Dragonskin, Roventure and as always helped out at Scouthike. and JOTA. There are 5 Units and 55 venturers in the District. Thanks to Dave Norris and his team for making all the activities happen.

The Courses in Leadership, Management, Environment, Boating, 1st Aid, Youth Helper & Abseiling again gave the scouts the opportunity to test their knowledge and leadership skills. This is such an important area of scouting and it was good to see everyone’s involvement.

Our local Ingleside Scout camp was well used by the Groups. Thanks to the local Environment Fellowship for running several courses during the year.

The camp is also under a management plan to upgrade the grounds and buildings. Thank you to all those who make this happen.

Community activities were well attended and included Clean up Australia, Anzac day and Council citizenship ceremonies.

Congratulations to our Annual Leader Awards recipients.

Glenn Satchell Silver Koala Award & Justin O’Hare Special Service Award

Our ongoing training of leaders took a big leap in the year as we upgraded our skills to the new Adventurous Activities standards which included canoeing, boating, water safety, First Aid, abseiling and many more. My thanks to all those leaders who have undertaken this challenge.

Congratulations to all our leaders, parents and the region team for the hundreds of volunteer hours they have given to scouting in such a wide range of nights, weekends & weeks for Scouthike, Jota, Sirius Cup, Dragonskin, Roventure, Anzac Day, fun days, community and group events, fundraising, leadership courses, environment courses, canoe courses, Anzac Day, fun days, district camps, citizenship presentations & hall maintenance days.

Finally my very special thanks to Councils, State and Federal Governments and the business community for their help with donations and fundraising.

Phil Donald
District Commissioner
Northern Beaches



Turrumburra District Report

2022-2023 saw a return to 'new normal' for scouting in the district. Groups consolidated their transition to the New Youth Program, offering a varied and challenging program for youth members.

Major events including Dragonskin, State Rally and Scout Hike returned to the scouting agenda. The latter saw many youth members experiencing their first major event. Scouting groups have done well to prepare their youth members for these events – despite the challenges of lack of previous opportunities for skills development. Congratulations to Matthew Brownlie (DSL, LNS/Turrumburra) for a hugely successful Sleep Point 2 at Scout Hike, and to the leader team at 1st Boronia / 1st Tambourine Bay for winning the best base at Scout Hike. Congratulations to Oliver, the patrol leader from 1st Lindfield for being the highest scoring patrol leader, and for leading his team to being 1st in region! And heartfelt thanks to all leaders who work tirelessly to make Dragonskin, Scout Hike and State Rally a fantastic event.



Photo: The winning base team at Scout Hike 2022

District Scout Camp was held in October 2022 at Cataract, with an opportunity for Scouts to earn points for various skills including camping, camp craft, safety and hygiene, menu planning and activities. Approximately 90 scouts attended this event.

Sirius cup also returned to the agenda, with many youth members attending this opportunity.

Other notable activities in the Turrumburra district have included:

- The first Venturer peak award being presented at 1st East Roseville for 27 years!!
- Tambourine Bay Venturer Tasmania Trip in January 2023
- Well attended ANZAC day ceremonies
- Participation in clean up Australia Day
- Groups attending joint activities (at Cub, Scout and Venturer level)
- Highly successful Christmas tree sales and other fundraising activities
- Participation in many adventurous activities
- Community events including the 7 Bridges Walk



I have had the pleasure of attending numerous cub and scout section nights, Seonees and Mindaries, and of course District Councils to observe the amazing program that groups have on offer – our district is lucky to have such enthusiastic and skilled leaders. We have a fantastic skill base in our district and it will be good to consolidate this moving forward into next year. The skills and enthusiasm of our leaders was recognised, with a large number of Turrumburra leaders received awards at the 2022 Adult Recognition Awards, include Silver Wattle awards to Stephen James (previous GL at 1st Lindfield), and Meritorious Service Awards to Kingsley Reade (1st Lindfield), and Tony Snepp (1st Lindfield). Well done to the team at 1st Lindfield, and to all the other leaders and parents who received awards last year. It has also been fantastic to see the collaborative approach taken in our district with leaders freely sharing their knowledge, and supporting leaders from both within and outside of their groups.

As per previous years, groups have worked tirelessly to continue to offer the best facilities, with continued focus on obtaining grant funding to complete upgrades at various halls. Thank you to our leaders and their parent support committees for instigating and managing these grants over the past 12 months. We look forward to seeing your shiny new projects.

While we leave 2022-2023 in a strong position, there remains an urgent need for more leaders within most of the groups. This will remain a focus, as will ensuring that leaders are adequately training in adventurous activities so that groups can continue to offer an exciting and varied program to their youth members.

Belinda Butcher
DC Turrumburra

Photo: Tambourine Bay Tasmania Trip January



2023 – Sunset on Mount Wellington



Photo: 1st East Roseville newest peak awardee the first Venturer to obtain the peak award in 27 years!

Activities Report



Always fun to be out and about having fun on activities. The last 12 months have been an amazing and sometimes challenging time for the activities teams.

Almost all of our region activities have been full over the last 12 months and the teams have been busy not only running events but working to get people qualifications. I acknowledge the large amount of time and work all of these people have freely given working to ensure that we continue to provide safe activities to all our members. A big thank you to all of the people involved.

Changes all leaders should be aware that there is:

Adventurous Activities Planning Tool.

Revised What Can I Do Matrix (issued in March 2023)

Online Adventurous Activities Notification System (replaces the E1 Part III paper form for adventurous Activities)

New Online application system for activities qualification requests.

To keep up to date keeping looking at the Adventurous Activities pages on the state website and access to the tools and notification systems.

<https://nsw.scouts.com.au/adventurous-activities/>

Over the last 12 months many of our regions youth and leaders attended the National Alpine School, State Alpine School and State Summer School. At these events a large number of people attained Guide qualifications, Safe & Trained Participant qualifications, OAS stage progressions and Cert II or III in outdoor recreation. These events mean our region continues to offer a wide range of outdoor adventures for our youth.

In a summary our Region Activities team has run courses, skill days and skill weekends in the following activities, Abseiling, Rock Climbing, Canyoning, Bushwalking, First-Aid, Snow Sports, Water Sports and Environment. Our Adventurous Activity Guides have continued to develop their skills during the last year by attending Region workshops, skills days and advance rescue workshops.

I encourage all members who are getting outdoors and taking part in their chosen activity fields to continue to develop their skills and then have those skills recognised with formal qualifications (TAFE Certificate II, III or IV in Outdoor Recreation).

Bushwalking:

Bushwalking is a core area in “The Program” for our youth and will continue to be a basic skill requirement for all youth and their leader.

We have a broad range of skilled people to assist with all those more difficult and remote walks. Look out for skills development workshops on the State Activities website. For more information please contact the Region Commissioner Activities.

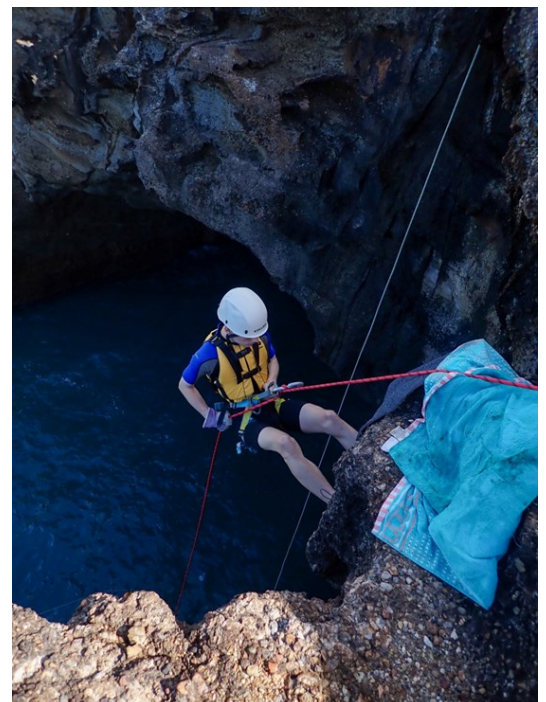
Abseiling:

Abseiling Skill days for Venturers, Rovers and Leaders, were run within the Region. The venue is either Wahroonga Rocks or Lindfield Rocks. These days are aligned with the SIS Training package and Harry Day, the Abseiling Co-ordinator would love to talk to you about your abseiling wish list.



The Region runs Scouts only abseiling days approximately 8 times a year at Lindfield Rocks. Scott Osborne the Co-ordinator continues to do a fantastic job of encouraging out youth participation. He runs one, two or three, 2-hour sessions depending on bookings, during the day and each youth member will do a minimum of five abseils in complete safety. Aside from this groups around our region continue to offer some really fun adventures and abseils challenging our youth.

If you are up for a real adventure then we can offer that as well. Just check out these pictures of our Anzac day sea cliff abseil with Normanhurst Venturer Unit.



Caving:

Our caving team led by Ben Power. Caving has been up and running as usual with a number of region trips to Bungonia Caves, Wee Jasper Caves and a few other places. It's always a fun adventure getting down and dirty exploring underground.

Canyoning:

Canyon is one of regions most popular activity. Vision impairment does not stop you canyoning just ask Seth about his canyon adventure which included a 60m waterfall abseil. The water dragon below was also looking for a bit of fun as well.

There is always plenty happening with our Rovers hitting some of the more difficult canyons in NSW and Victoria. The year has seen a variety of canyoning undertaken from basic to advanced levels. We ran 3 basic canyon adventure weekends, and 2 rigging and rescue weekends during the year. We continue to expand our horizons along with the number of Guides we have to assist in this space.

A big thank your to Craig Stanfield and Shane Miller the Canyoning Co-ordinators who lead an enthusiastic band of dedicated and highly skilled canyoners.





Rock Climbing:

Adrian Kladnig as the Climbing Co-ordinator has again run basic and advanced rock-climbing skill weekends and skill days in the Blue Mountains and other environs. Adrian has been assisted by Tom during the year who has completed his Guide Rock Climbing training. This year Scout climbers visited cliffs in the Southern Highlands, the Watagans, Nowra, Arapiles and the Grampians in Western Victoria.

Indoor climbing is still very popular.

Cubs and Scouts can take part and build up their skill levels as a prelude to Venturers by going indoor rock climbing. Remember that Scouts do not have to be qualified to use climbing gyms.

Flying Fox:

The Flying Fox Team has been on hold during the year but are looking forward to 2023/2024. A big thank you to David Lister who as the Flying Fox Co-ordinator who has working to get the Flying Fox back up and running across the state. Contact David via the SNR website if you have a desire to zoom down a wire cable at warp speed or if you would like to learn how to set up a Flying Fox.

First-Aid:

The Regions First Aid Team again provided through St John Ambulance many opportunities for our youth and leaders to gain first aid training and qualifications. John Crowley and his team have done a magnificent job promoting First Aid to the Region. All our First Aid Instructors are fully trained with St John Ambulance and I would encourage every member of the Scout Movement, young or old, to keep their First-Aid skills up to date. Whilst there are other first aid providers please give first preference to our first aid team who provide first aid support to many of the large events run within our Region and further afield.

Cross Country Skiing:

There were plenty of opportunities to cross country ski in 2022. The region held a basic XCD weekend in July but had to cancel the XCD camping weekend at short notice.

However there was the National Cross Country Ski School and the State Cross Country Ski schools that ran during the 2022 season. These schools mean we have a large number of XCD Guides in our region and a number of assistant guides as well. These schools were spent not only doing ski skills but learning how to stay safe and take shelter when things go wrong. This was a picture of our team digging a snow cave.



2023 will again see us hitting the cross country ski-ing trails running basic cross country ski skills weekend and overnight camping and survival skills in the snow weekend. See the SNR website for more information

Water Sports (Canoeing, Sailing, Swimming & Snorkelling):

There have been many water activities happening across our Region with Canoeing, Sailing, Swimming, Surfing, Snorkelling and even some diving. The issuing of water skill certificates continues to rise and there have been many opportunities to get certificates during the years. A group of youth and leaders achieve water skills qualifications (canoeing/kayak flat water, canoe/kayak white water, river crossings, basic water rescues) at the NSW Summer Alpine School in January 2023. Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders have all enjoyed the activities on offer.

If you have a training need then please contact the Region Commissioner Activities to discuss further.

Water Sports (White Water Kayaking):

David Fisher and his Team have run White Water Kayaking courses training Venturers, Rovers and Leaders how to safely negotiate everything up to Grade 2 white water. The course uses Penrith lakes white water course as an introduction weekend followed up by a weekend of real river White Water Paddling. All training is SIS aligned and equipment is provided, so we encourage you to let your youth know about this wonderful new offering. There was also the NSW Summer Alpine School that offer youth and leaders the opportunity for OAS stage progressions and qualifications.



Cycling:

Many groups have been cycling for years but cycling has been brought into the adventurous activities qualification framework. We are getting large numbers of people looking to get qualifications and this is great. If you have not started work on this then please contact the Region Commissioner Activities.

The NSW Summer School in Jindabyne in January 2023 was a perfect opportunity for leaders to get qualifications and youth to get OAS stage progressions. We had a number of youth and leaders attend from Sydney North. One youth member from our region even received the tree hugger award for his efforts. Well done Matt.

Environment:

The Environment Team led by Kathy ran a number of events during 2022 providing opportunities for our youth to learn about the environment. We will continue to have our youth visited places of interest both within and outside our Region and help our youth members to learn more about how to navigate through the bush in an environmentally friendly way, maximising their bush experiences.

Jota/Joti:

The Radio Team encouraged our Regions Scouts and Guides to join together for a weekend of radio and internet fun, where they contacted other youth members from all over Australia and around the world. The Team will also run special nights at your Troop location, electronics, radio and computer skills amongst other topics can be organised for you, contact Glen Satchell.

A big thanks also to all the Activity Team Co-ordinators for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. Every member of our Activity Team loves passing on their knowledge and skills to all that take part in our activities. Congratulations to all the Team.

Wesley Leverton

Regional Commissioner Activities

Adult Training & Development

Firstly, my grateful acknowledgement to the Leader Trainers and Assistant Leader Trainers from the State training team and Sydney North Region for their time and commitment to the cause of training in Scouting. Without their selfless time and knowledge, our training could not happen.

I would also like to thank Belinda Hose and Donna Staff at Region head office for their ongoing assistance to enable me to function!

As we emerge from the disruption of Covid over the past 12-18 months, we are gradually re-engaging the youth and leaders back into the wonderful world of scouting.

Finding new leaders is an ongoing challenge and the demands of parents nowadays seem higher.

With growing awareness of mental health in society and high leader interest, we scheduled several youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) 2-day courses over the period October 2022 -March 2023. The course equips adults who teach, care for and support young people, with the skills and confidence needed to recognise and respond to a young person experiencing a mental health problem or crisis.

We had around 85+ leaders and Rovers complete the course and feedback on usefulness of the course has been most positive. I would like to thank John Crowley (RL Activities) and Steve Tufts (DC Lower North Shore) for their organization of some of these courses, and the Scouts NSW MHFA Training team for their magnificent support as instructors too.



MHFA course participants at Willoughby & Barra Brui halls

It is acknowledged that leaders are continually under time constraints and their capacity to allocate time to their training requirements can be squeezed. The on-demand (Scout Central) and face-to-face (residential) training programme is in place to enable adults to become competent and confident supporters of youth and leaders themselves. A desire for learning, self-improvement and networking would be other motivations.

The aspiration is for trainee leaders to attain their Certificate of Proficiency after 12 months from becoming a member, and their Wood Badge leadership credentials within the next 12 months – a two-year timeline, which has recently been extended from the former 18 months' timeline.

However, the mandatory on-demand training for WHS and Child Safe Scouting are non-negotiable, and must be completed every 3 years. In the main, most leaders and adult supporters have been compliant; those members who (after several follow-up contacts) have chosen not to complete this mandatory training, have been resigned as members. It is well recognized the residential training components are an important content delivery mechanism not just to enhance the on-demand training content, but for leader networking and learning in a group dynamic.

While there is a desire for more flexible training face-to-face course delivery/scheduling, such as local part time courses, the ongoing challenge is sufficient attendees to warrant the time of volunteer leader trainers. How we facilitate face-to-face training is a work in progress.

The new residential training calendar format for 2023 is aimed at providing sufficient courses and sites within logistical constraints to enable leaders to more easily attend face-to-face training. For Sydney North leaders, there are courses now run alternately at Pennant Hills, Bundilla and Glenrock. To date, there seems to be improved & strong attendances.

There have been 17 Wood Badge Awardees over the period April 2022-March 2023. Congratulations to you all. BRAVO!

The Future

One goal for 2023/2024 is to identify and appoint District and Region Leader Trainers to assist and shepherd leaders through their training programme.

We aim to schedule further youth Mental Health First Aid 2-day courses for adult leaders, Rovers and hopefully Venturers, and some re-accreditation courses over the next 12 months.

A need for training to assist leaders in catering for youth members with disabilities (special needs) has been raised and this will be explored further.

Improved communication concerning training awareness and course availability through such mediums as a dedicated SNR website page and the Compass newsletter.

Stephen James
Region Commissioner Adult Training & Development

Sydney North Region



Wood Badge

Roll of Honour

1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Sophie Carter	2nd Gordon Rover Unit
Javier Christie	2nd Gordon Cub Unit
Louise Crowther	1st Bayview Cub Unit 'Port'
Jennifer Edyejones	West Pymble Scout Unit
Paul Farrar	1st Frenchs Forest Scout Unit
Michael Fridolfsson	1st Collaroy Plateau Venturer Unit
Niamh Hitchman	1st Turrumurra Venturer Unit
Elizabeth Hodgson	1st Sailors Bay Venturer Unit
David Jones	Beecroft Scout Unit
Pamela Martin	Brookvale/Curl Curl Scout Group
Stephen Rooke	Eastwood/Marsfield Cub Unit
Troy Stephenson	Regional Leader (Activities)
Claudia Sayer	2nd Gordon Joey Unit
Edward Sawkins	1st Allambie Heights Scout Group
Mark Taylor	1st Sailors Bay Venturer Unit
Kevork Temisgian	1st Turrumurra Scout Unit
Christopher Walster	1st Sailors Bay Scout Unit 'Shark'

Diversity & Inclusion Report



It is pleasing to see increasing examples of inclusion in Scouting, both at group level and at events. Whilst we have continued to embrace cultural diversity in membership and programming, it has been more challenging for our organisation to include youth with disabilities and additional support needs in mainstream scouting rather than in special needs groups. Youth with allergies, anxiety, autism, gender diversity, intellectual disability, physical disability, unusual behaviours and other diverse needs are actively participating in scouting across our region with support and encouragement from Leaders and other youth members.

However, not all Groups are currently able to welcome youth members with additional support needs owing to shortage of Leaders, insufficient training and other resources. Sensory Kits are available for Groups who need full kits or replacement items. Contact Region Office to collect, or Beth Mitchell for more information.

Diverse needs can also be managed at Activity Days and larger events with forward planning and effective communication between event organisers and home leaders. SNR Scouthike is a physically and emotionally challenging event with difficult terrain and potential extremes of weather, where resilience and scouting skills are tested. This year a Scout participated in Scouthike in their wheelchair and used an All-Terrain wheelchair where required.

Region and district camps, Cuborees and Jamborettes, provide important experience and nights-under-canvas for youth members. Designated sensory spaces operating at these events offer crucial support for participants experiencing sensory overload, exhaustion or needing short breaks from challenging activities.

Hunter and Coastal Region Myths and Legends Corroboree was held at Dungog on Wonnarua Country over 5 days in January 2023. For many Scouts this was their first “big” camping event owing to cancellation of both the NSW 2020 Cuboree and the 2022 Australian Jamboree. A Scout from Unit 22 gave a Welcome to Country and his Unit’s Gateway featured the Baiame Dreaming story.

The Sensory Chill-out Zone at Corroboree was staffed by four Leaders over two days. Conveniently located between First Aid, SES Activity Base and Sub Camp 1 Headquarters, it was busy throughout providing support to youth members and relief to Leaders.

Sydney North All Abilities Scout Group continues to provide scouting to members with ongoing support needs. Currently they meet weekly, alternating between in-hall, out of hall and on-line meetings.

Plans are underway for Agoonoree to return next year after disappointing cancellations owing to Covid lockdowns and limited availability of venues and Leaders. Agoonoree is an inclusive camp for both Scouts and Girl Guides which runs over 4 days and 3 nights with catering provided. Attendees can choose between tent camping or bunkroom accommodation. The program includes on-site activities, a full day off site, movies, games, a disco and a campfire. A sensory Chill Space is provided for youth attendees as well as a Leader Chill Zone.

Beth Mitchell

RC Diversity and Inclusion, May 2023



Issues Management Report

Period: July 2022 – June 2023

Introduction

Tasman McManis has continued in his role as RC Issues Management with on-going assistance from Viv Waddingham Professor of Clinical Psychology and Berowra Venturer Leader and Grace Johnson Rover and Venturer Leader in Training.

I would like to thank the team members for their assistance and support during the past twelve months and thank Quentin Amos for his on-going support and guidance as we seek to resolve these people issues.

It is also important to thank Bill Barnes from State Office who has been very supportive in helping to try and resolve some of the thornier issues that have occurred in the last twelve months.

Issues Covered in the Period

During the reporting period the Issues Management team has continued to handle a broad range of issues.

These issues have mainly involved adult leaders and parents and included:

- Abusive language between adult members of Scouting
- Parents not cooperating or being aggressive with leaders.
- Issues with leaders and parents where a child attending Scouts is on the spectrum or has a disability.
- Leader disagreements and shaming of leaders
- Leader personality clashes
- Conflict resolution
- Inappropriate touching of another adult
- Group mediation
- Inappropriate behaviour amongst Rovers

Approach to Issues Management

The approach adopted by the Sydney North Region and the Issues Management Team is to encourage issues to be resolved at the section or group level as much as possible. Where this is not possible it is raised with the relevant District Commissioner. If the issue is proving more difficult to resolve, then it can be raised with the Region Issues Management team.

In some cases, the issue is raised directly with the State Office and on these occasions (depending on the nature of the issue), the State Office will encourage the Region to get involved and look to resolve the issue.

Sydney North Region

Conclusion & Recommendations

On several occasions adults have become entrenched about their views/actions, refused to apologise about their behaviour and threatened legal action which has resulted (where they are in uniform) in them being dismissed from the movement.

Over the next 12 months it is planned to produce information for leaders through Compass and via District Commissioners to provide some background about issues management to try and educate leaders and parents about the behavioural standards that are expressed through the Law & Promise.

It is recommended that Groups regularly remind leaders, youth members and parents of the Scout Law and Promise at weekly meetings and prior to overnight activities to reinforce the movement's expected behaviour standards.

During the last year there has been an increase in issues linked to youth members with disabilities. Often leaders may not have had any experience with youth members with these conditions and it is recommended that the Region look to introduce a pilot training program to help leaders better understand how to work with these youth members. The program could be supported by relevant reference materials to help leaders when required.

Tasman McManis

Region Commissioner Issues Management

Members Support Report

Scouting is back in full strength and with it, sometimes there is a conflict or two. With most of these, conflict having a discussion usually has a good outcome. BUT THIS YEAR. Was a busy one.

YES, we are STILL.

Coming out of a difficult time CALLED Covid19.

This is still creating problems.

Many of our youth members, along with many Adults are facing a whole new challenge in leaving behind their electronic world.

During this last year, I have had many in Scouting, Leaders, Youth members and Parents, finding that life has taken on new challenges.

COMMUNICATING

Many have lost their way when it came time, to communicate in a face-to-face environment.

Many felt it was easier to send emails, texts, units news.

This can be great way to communicate.

BUT on many occasions this year I have had to convene meetings with Youth members, Leaders, and Parents. Because of miss in formation.

Just assuming, the lack of involving all in programming.

Many have struggled with, The Concept of Youth Lead and Adult Support. Sometime Parents have a say too.

Many families have been a lot more involved this year with camps, and activities.

This has some great benefits,

BUT

During Covid, Parents, Carers, Families all faced extra responsibility of supervising their families in a home environment. After all there was no Scouts, after school activities, sports, music classes, Dance just to name a few that our young people do plus weekend camps.

Some Adults still aren't sure about letting go and coming onboard the scouting way.

So, when it comes to camps, night meetings and activities, tempers can become frayed.

Setting the seen. By simply having a face-to-face meeting with all involved in upcoming activity.

E.g., Camp programme, Define Rules, Duties, Rosters, Activity leaders.

I have had very good results with encouraging many Units, and Districts to write their own Code of Conduct.

District with all district leader's input.

CODE of CONDUCT

Written by Youth, for their Unit, Leader's input. Parents being made aware of Code.

DUTY of CARE.

SAFE ENVIROMENT for ALL.

So, when it comes times for camp, activities, we are all on the same page.

I would like to thank Tasman McManis and Quentin Amos for always being my support team. Donna, and Belinda Thank you both for all the behind the scenes help. Region and District Leader, most important Group Leaders, thank your all for your support to myself and your Units.

Faye Bowers

RC Members Support

Joey Section Report



The past 12 months has seen Joeys units across Sydney North participate in a range of exciting, fun and challenging camps, hikes and activities.

Western Pouch units enjoyed a very successful camp at Camp Kariong. All Joeys camped (many for the first time) and participated in a range of adventurous activities including archery. The success of the camp was very much down to the hard work of the DJSL Lindy Muir who put in a huge effort in the planning and running of the event. As a region event many firsts were encountered including the booking system, policy questions around Joey camping (yes – just like everyone else in scouting), catering and the wide range of activities. Well done Lindy and leaders from Western Pouch!!

Eastern Pouch was also very busy with a Joey Paddling Day (yes – Joeys can also canoe!!), An Eastern Pouch Campfire and another very successful camp – the Halloween Holiday. Congratulations and well done to DJSL Jim Baldwin for masterminding all these successful events.

We also had many Joeys achieve their Peak Awards in the last year. Congratulations to everyone.

Dean Bassett
RC Joeys

Cub Section Report



During this time the cub units within Sydney North Region have been very busy being active doing lots of different activities that have ranged from District camp with a Roald Dahl theme and the youth members who attended had a fabulous time.

Some of the district's activities included bike rides, bush walks, SES night, science nights, Halloween nights.

Some groups had group camps and the highlight of the camp was the campfire, so groups at camps did crate stacking, open days and attending canoeing days put on by the Activities team.

During the course of the time there were 73 Peak awards presented. Congratulations to all those youth members who received their peak awards.

Some of those youth members celebrated their achievements in different ways, some had a night out having fun at indoor rock climbing, some stayed at the hall and played games and had a party.

Congratulations goes out to those leaders and adult helpers who received a scouting award on World Scout Day 2022.

All youth members and leaders are looking forward to attending Cuboree this year.

Cassie Donald

RC Cubs

Scout Section Report



The Sydney North Region Scout Section continues to be an example of excellence in scouting. Units have excelled at the activities they have been completely at a local level, with numerous weekend camps and weekly evenings being the backbone and core business of scouts this year. The past year has seen many challenges but positive changes throughout the Scout section. Every Scout unit is now on the New Youth Program and are loving the flexibility of the New System, it's great to hear stories of leaders pushing on through the change and adapting to a new way of doing things. The District Leaders continue to do a great job guiding and supporting the passionate and enthusiastic leaders that we are lucky to have here in Sydney North.

Scouthike 2023 was a huge success! 900 eager scouts and 450 passionate, Leaders, Rovers, venturers and Adult Helpers finally descended upon a sunny Belanglo state Forest. The Scouthike Team, Sleep Point teams and Activity teams had been working tirelessly to ensure the weekend was fun for all. The busses were expertly guided through the forest and though many a car got stuck no busses did. Many units and crews extensively planned their activities delivered exceptional activities. Leaders delivered 28 varied and engaging activities that tapped into the many skills of their leaders and provided a variety of challenges from many areas of scouting skills. Many Scout Patrols had interesting props and creative costumes to really bring the activity alive and show their enthusiasm. After over 2 years without a Scouthike it was the first time attending this event more many, however the scouts stepped up brilliantly. Congratulations to all of the Sleep Point teams who supported and managed their 200 scouts brilliantly, providing well set up Sleep points that helped the scouts have a wonderful weekend. A big thank you to Forestry NSW who worked hard leading up to the event to ensure the forest was in as best condition it could be for us.

Sydney North continues to be a powerhouse and leader of Basic Scout Training courses, with 7 different courses training over 150 scouts last year! A huge effort by each of the district Scout teams! District Camps, State Rally, Jota, , Canoeing and Swimming Carnivals, Cub-Scout/Scout-Venturer Link camps, Pioneering Camps and Scout Leadership Training were the other main 'above Troop' activities supported by Leaders from across the Region. These activities supplemented the many Troop initiated activities managed by our dedicated team of Scout Leaders.

Over the past year there has been a considerable number of completions of Australian Scout Awards, which have been presented across most of the districts. All awards were completed at a consistently high standard which shows the high quality of scouts that we have here in Sydney North and the skilled dedicated leaders that guide and encourage them. Great work done by their fellow scouts, leaders and families who supported and helped them develop their skills. 17 Australian Scout Award– the Peak Award of the Scout section were awarded, of which each scout should be proud of their accomplishment.

Thank you for all your hard work and commitment you put into your Troops, Units, local camps, district, region and state camps is absolutely invaluable and we would not be able to deliver such a high standard of scouting in Sydney North without you!. Continue to be amazing leaders as you enthusiastically support the wonderful youth of the Scout section, which would not possible without all of the hard work, preparation and enthusiasm shown by our leaders in the region and I look forward to working with each of you. Thank you!

Mitchell Rath
RC Scouts



Venturer Section Report



The Last 12 months for Sydney North Venturers have been a fantastic show of everyone taking advantage of getting outdoors and getting involved where people can.

In 2022 we saw the Personal Development Course for Venturers Run again which was attended by many across the region so they can improve their leadership and teamworking skills.



2022 saw the Venturers in the region run a Joint Region Venture with Sydney North and Hunter and Coastal, attended by almost 100 Venturers and Leaders from across the two regions, with both land and water activities, everyone had a blast!



Dragonskin 2023 – once again Dragonskin was well attended by venturers over the Easter Long weekend, with numbers up from last year. Teams Came from all over NSW coming to attend. Sydney North Teams took out First (Team 34 The Weakest Link, 2nd/3rd Pennant Hills) and Second Place (Team 4 Les Phoques, 1st Turrumurra) So congratulations to both of those teams .



Peak Awards

In the last 12 months there were 11 Venturers who Completed their Queen Scout Award in Sydney North Region which is a fantastic effort to see since the last AGM. Sometime in 2023 the name is likely to change to the King Scout Award with the passing of the Queen, but as of this report the award is still known as the Queen Scout Award.

Liam Painter

RC Venturers

Rover Section Report



Looking back at the year that was we can honestly say that Sydney North Region Rovers have put their best foot forward in 2022-2023 and continued to buck the trend set by COVID. As the section has emerged from the restrictions of lockdowns, all Units have been getting out and about, and upheld the tradition of “Rovers Do Stuff”. From the Region Rover Council executive perspective, it is our pleasure to say it’s been a fantastic year helping lead and guide these Rovers in all things Roving and watching the Units of this Region grow and thrive together.

First off it was pleasing this year to see many of the long-running activity staples of the Sydney North Rover calendar returning - including Normanhurst’s Magical Mystery Tour and Turramurra’s Harbour Cruise, as well as the increasing numbers of weekend events and commitments including our Region Dinner, Kalang Kup, Roventure, Not-a-Moot, and Region Summer Moot. A big thank-you must go out to all the organisers and Units who took these on throughout the year, for running such successful events.

A particularly big thank-you must go to Normanhurst and Yaralla, and Turramurra and Kissing Point, for taking on the huge task of running last year’s and this year’s Summer Moots respectively. From all the positive feedback it is clear that they pulled off some of the best Moots of the season!

We would also like to acknowledge Amelia Malone for organising and executing just about every other Region event over the year, and for her tireless effort and promotions to ensure all events went ahead, with almost all Units participating in some way.

Activities weren’t just limited to major weekend events, as Sydney North Crews continued to plan and undertake a variety of successful weekly and weekend activities throughout the year. Just some of the highlights included paint and pets, wheelchair basketball, axe throwing, pub trivia, beach nights, paddle boarding, 4WD trips, mountain biking, canyoning, abseiling, and bouldering.



Sydney North Region Annual Report 2022/2023



Sydney North Rovers also went further afield, with our Rovers in attendance and making a positive impact at just about every Rovering and Scout event in NSW, including other Region Moots, Dragon Skin, ScoutHike, State Rally, Gang Show - the list goes on. We also had around 60 Sydney North Rovers in the NSW Contingent that made its way down to the National “Apple Isle” Moot in Tasmania at the beginning of this year.

Service continued to play its important part. Individual Unit service activities included support for Oxfam Trailwalker, the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic, building animal shelters in local bushland, Plant a Tree Day, fundraising for Bear Cottage, and maintenance jobs at Scout facilities. As a Region, support for ANZAC Day, and grounds maintenance at Barra Brui hall continued, plus our annual service project took place at Ingleside. Sydney North also made an outstanding contribution to the National Rover Plasma Challenge, making the most donations of any Region in Australia.

Our Rovers have also continued their success this year with many of our members and Units being recognised in awards from all corners of Scouting including:

- Forest Rover Unit receiving a Quality Rovering Award
- Billie Moran, Sarah Berlecky, Kaitlin Strickland, Aaron Kew, Elyse Versace, and Daniel Hose receiving Rover Recognition Awards
- Forest Rover Unit receiving a B-P Lodge Service Award
- Platabeen Rover Unit receiving a B-P Lodge Encouragement Award

B-R-A-V-O-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.

We are also pleased to have been able to introduce the Warawara Award, made possible by a generous benefactor who wishes to see the Rover section thrive and enable Rovers get out and about on adventures. The Warawara Award serves as a replacement to the previous Balthasar Award and we hope this new award will continue to encourage Sydney North Rovers to undertake adventurous activities in Australia and overseas, which they may not otherwise have been able to do.

On a sadder note, the overall numbers in many Unit have unfortunately declined slightly this year - to the point where even the long-standing Brush Park Rover Crew was recently forced into temporary recess. However, on the positive side, we are pleased to report that Asquith have begun their sponsorship and are in the final stages of getting a new Rover Unit off the ground, while Lower North Shore District have a large group of Venturers ready to move up this year and we are in the final talks to begin their process of starting a Rover Unit.

We would like to extend special thanks to the great executive team that was elected this past year. Each one of you has done a fantastic job at your respective roles and, without all your support, things most certainly would not have run as smoothly as they have. Despite all the challenges, difficulties 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 we cannot thank you enough for all your efforts. We also welcome the appointment of Elyse Versace as Assistant Regional Commissioner – Rovers, to provide further support to the RRC and our Units.

As we head into a new Scouting year, we trust that we have seen the last of COVID lockdowns and restrictions, and that the enthusiasm and commitment of all Sydney North Region Rovers can continue to put the “out” in “Scouting” and show the Scouting movement why Sydney North Region Rovers excel! We look forward to 2023-24 being even more successful and a brighter one for all sections of Scouting and particularly Sydney North Region Rovers.

Daniel Hose

Region Rover Council Chair 2022-23

Nick Buchner

Regional Commissioner – Rovers



Joey Scout Challenge Award



Nina Mason	1st East Ryde
Amber Kelly	2nd/3rd Lindfield
Philippa Parekh Wilson	1st Willoughby
Genevieve Hunter	2nd/3rd Lindfield
Ashley Porter	1st Berowra
Benjamin Pezzutti	1st North Sydney
George Mobbs	1st North Sydney
Kiran Thomson	2nd/3rd Lindfield
William Flarey	1st Berowra
Allie Weng	1st East Ryde
Samuel Leonhart	1st East Ryde
Evelyn Ouyang	1st East Ryde
Xavier Mathisen Hermosilla	1st Balgowlah
Bonnie Teague	1st Hornsby Heights
Alex Onishe	1st East Ryde
Summer Binfield	1st North Turrumurra
Emily Lane	1st Hornsby Heights
Martin Zipaquirra Romero	1st East Ryde
Jamie Yao	1st East Ryde

Grey Wolf Award



Charlie Jenkins	West Pennant Hills
Elle Mrkic	Brookvale/Curl Curl
Edward Butcher	1st Tambourine Bay
Elizabeth Rutledge	1st Tambourine Bay
Angus Smith	1st Hornsby Heights
Kobe Hinwood	West Pennant Hills
Fletcher Ball	Normanhurst
Harry Sanders	1st Bayview
Haydn Cocks	1st East Ryde
Matthew Heath	1st Hornsby Heights
Lacey Allan	1st Elanora Heights
Kiara Brown	1st East Ryde
Oliver Gormley	1st Northbridge
Lucas Silva Parsons	1st Tambourine Bay
Isla Thornton	1st Tambourine Bay
Milla Catterick	1st Elanora Heights
Khaleesia Pond	Beecroft
Samuel Mahoney	1st Tambourine Bay
Caspian Edwards	1st Pymble
Erin Forsyth	Normanhurst
Eve Shaw	1st East Ryde
Jack Warren	West Pymble
Skye Varnes	1st Sailors Bay

Emma Wood	Cromer-Dee Why
Georgia Jennings	2nd Turramurra
Thomas McArthur	2nd Turramurra
James Allinson	2nd Gordon
Madeleine Clare	1st East Roseville
Max Kophamel	West Pennant Hills
Nicolas Schneider	2nd Gordon
Sterling Parekh Wilson	1st Willoughby
Sonali Dissanayake	1st Cherrybrook
Amber McDonald	1st Cherrybrook
Jake Ingham	Brookvale/Curl Curl
Lachlan Palethorpe	West Pymble
Jacqueline Flower	2nd/3rd Pennant Hills
Lucy Woodbridge	Greenwich/Wollstonecraft
Gabby Thomas	1st East Roseville
Cienna Heald	1st Bayview
Max McIntosh	2nd Turramurra
Yiran Zhou	2nd Gordon
Josephine Andrews	Normanhurst
Ethan Taggart	1st Collaroy Plateau
Hamish Courtenay	North St Ives
Claire Cabuil	1st Pymble
Charlie Crumpton	1st Pymble
Jeremy Chim	Epping
Sophie Robinson	1st Pymble
Nathan Koon	2nd Turramurra
Adam Muxlow	1st Cherrybrook
Daisy Bryant	Fairlight/Manly
Rafferty Hannon	1st Bayview
Callan Beaumont	1st Bayview
William Allen	1st Pymble

Sarah Leverton	1st Hornsby Heights
Joshua Foord	Belrose
Jonathan Ng	1st East Ryde
Chloe Menezes	1st Cherrybrook
Lachlan Baker	1st Pymble
Gabriel Vianna	1st Sailors Bay
Tom Bodkin	1st/2nd Harbord
Zachariah Worrall	1st Asquith
Lachlan Gidley-Baird	Greenwich/Wollstonecraft
Lucas Chan	1st East Ryde
Aaron Zuo	1st Cherrybrook
Nicolas Chu	1st Sailors Bay
Owen Doucet	1st East Ryde
Thomas Porter	1st Pymble
Tiki Xu	1st East Ryde
Nattakrit Pibulpat	1st East Ryde
Sophie Doyle	1st Pymble
Henry Riordan	Fairlight/Manly
Matthew Shum	1st East Ryde

Australian Scout Award



Finn Warren	1st North Sydney
Chantelle Pond	Beecroft
Emily Dance-Mark	1st Hornsby Heights
Owen Cameron	2nd/3rd Pennant Hills
Kate Walters	1st Gordon
Lana Waddingham	1st Berowra
Aoibheann Cleary	1st Asquith
Zhan Luo	1st Sailors Bay
Eloise Smith	1st Brush Park
Matthew Robson	1st Sailors Bay
Chloe McCredie	1st Gordon
Kiera Ruston	2nd/3rd Pennant Hills
Lachlan Woodbridge	Greenwich/Wollstonecraft
Leonidas Dalmaris	1st Berowra
Victoria Chu	1st East Wahroonga

Queen's Scout Award



Chloe Starling

1st Asquith

Samuel Marinovich

Brookvale/Curl Curl

Jennifer Riley

1st Hornsby Heights

Brianna Morcom

2nd St Ives

Ethan McGregor

2nd Turramurra



Wendy Game	23/04/2022
Kanglin Li	17/06/2022
Peter Waite	02/07/2022
Norma Notley	11/10/2022
Leslie Roberts	30/12/2022
Norma Wilson	12/01/2023

Adult Recognition Awards

Congratulations to the following Sydney North Region Leaders and Supporters who have been honoured in the 2021 annual Scouts Australia Adult Recognition Awards

Silver Emu



Awarded for further distinguished service to Scouts Australia by an Adult Member in an active Leadership role, for a period of at least four or five years since the Award of the Silver Koala.

Nicholas Richard Buchner, Regional Commissioner (Rovers), Sydney North Region
Toni-Lee Anne Game, Joey Scout Leader, 1st Willoughby

Silver Koala



Awarded for distinguished service to Scouts Australia as an Adult Member in an active Leadership role, for a period of around 14 to 16 years.

Glenn Robert Satchell, Assistant Scout Leader, Brookvale/Curl Curl

Silver Wattle



Awarded for outstanding service to Scouts Australia as an Adult Member in an active Leadership role, for a period of around ten to twelve years.

Leasa Joy Clark, Scout Leader, Ryde

Cassandra Jane Donald, Regional Commissioner (Cub Scouts), Sydney North Region

Stephen John James, Regional Commissioner (Adult Training & Development), Sydney North Region

Stuart Charles Leverton, Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Hornsby Heights “Drop Bears”

Meritorious Service Award



Awarded to Young Adult Members, Adult Members and Supporters for meritorious or praiseworthy service to Scouts Australia for a period of around six to eight years.

Glenn Brown, Assistant Scout Leader, 2nd Gordon,

Peter Graeme Buckley, Group Leader – P, Epping

Alice Nicole Chaffey, Assistant Cub Scout Leader, Epping

Stephen Andrew Hunt, Venturer Scout Leader, 1st Cherrybrook

Fiona Yuri Macdonald, Assistant Scout Leader, 2nd Gordon

Gabrielle Ruth Oslington, Joey Scout Leader – P, 2nd Gordon

Kingsley Martin Reade, Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Lindfield

Anna Ridley Wellwood, Trainee Leader (Rover), 1st Turramurra Rovers

Anthony Vere Snepp, Group Adviser, 1st Lindfield

Geoffrey Mark Vaughan, Assistant Group Leader, 2nd Turramurra

Maryanne Vorreiter, Adult Helper, Hornsby Gang Show

Special Service Award



Awarded to Young Adult Members, Adult Members and Supporters for the successful support, development or management of a Section or Formation, or for an intense contribution over a period of at least 12 months to the success of a major event or major activity.

Geraldine Kathryn Andrews, Assistant Cub Scout Leader, Normanhurst
Kathleen Margaret Benson, Group Treasurer, Hornsby Gang Show
Sarah May Berlecky, Crew Leader, Yaralla Rovers
Kristin Rochelle Braendle, Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Berowra
Rebecca Jane Canty, Adult Helper, Hornsby Gang Show
Minyi (Candy) Chen, Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Roselea
Wai Tak (Arthur) Chung, Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Lindfield
Andrew Clements, Scout Leader – P, 1st Willoughby
Charles-Oliver Descoedres, Cub Scout Leader – P, 2nd Gordon
Kerry Dominish, Adult Helper, Hornsby Gang Show
Antony Bernard Feehan, Group Secretary, 1st Frenchs Forest
Elizabeth Foster, Assistant Cub Scout Leader, Normanhurst
Luong Tu Giang, Scout Leader – P, 1st Lindfield
Pornsawan Jongpaiboonkit, Cub Scout Leader, Chatswood
Simone Kaenzig, Assistant Group Leader, 1st Tambourine Bay
Nicholas Macfarlane, Venturer Scout Leader – P, 1st Roselea
Brett James McCarthy, Cub Scout Leader – P, 1st Lindfield
Stephen John Morgan, Group Chairman, 1st Tambourine Bay
Emmajane O’Donoghue, Group Secretary, Epping
Justin O’Hare, Joey Scout Leader – P, 1st/2nd Harbord
Kathy O’Leary, Cub Scout Leader – P, 1st Northbridge “Kookaburra”
Lynette Meredyth Porter, Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Berowra
Benjamin Dai Tran, Provisional Leader (Joey Scout), 1st Boronia
Alicia Anne Warren, Cub Scout Leader, 1st Boronia

Sydney North Team

Region Supporters Council

Office Bearers

Patron	Mr Matt Kean Member for Hornsby
Region President	Dr Neil Mattes OAM
Region Chairperson	Mr Philip Cooper OAM
Region Treasurer	Mr Doug Menzies OAM
Regional Commissioner	Mr Kerry Griffin
Deputy Region Commissioner	Mr Charles Turner
Deputy Region Commissioner	Mr Quentin Amos
Rover Council Representation	Two representatives from the Sydney North Region Rover Council

Region uniform office holders

Regional Commissioner	Mr Kerry Griffin
Deputy Region Commissioner	Mr Charles Turner
Deputy Region Commissioner	Mr Quentin Amos
Region Groups Representation	Chairperson of each Group within SNR Group Leaders or Leaders In Charge of each Group within Sydney North Region

Regional Commissioners

Joey Scouts	Mr Dean Bassett	Special Needs	Mrs Beth Mitchell
Cub Scouts	Ms Cassandra Donald	Issue Management	Mr Tasman McManis
Scouts	Mr Mitchell Rath	Community Development	Mr Allen Hyde
Venturer Scouts	Mr Liam Painter	Environment	Ms Kathy Jones
Rovers	Mr Nick Buchner	Youth Program Support	Ms Melisa Knudson
Adult Training & Development	Mr Stephen James	Diversity & Inclusion	Mrs Beth Mitchell
Region Activities Centres	Mr Randall Jones	WHS	Mr Wayne Finch
Members Support	Mrs Faye Bowers	Property	Mr Gregg Barr-Jones
Activities	Mr Wesley Leverton		

Regional Commissioners—Special Duties

Mr Peter Thomson	Mr Stephen McCann
Ms Rhonda Christie	Mrs Sandra Southall
Mr Ian Bowers	Mrs Maureen Twin
Mrs Christine Morling	Mr Peter Thomson

Assistant Regional Commissioners

Activities	Adrian Kladnig
Activities	Scott Osbourne
Rovers	Elyse Versace

District Commissioners

Benowie
Garigal
Ku-Ring-Gai
Lower North Shore
Moochooboolah
Northern Beaches
Turrumburra

Mr Robert Rodgers
Mr Tom Miles
Mr Geoff Vaughan
Mr Steve Tufts
Mr Cameron Jessep
Mr Phillip Donald
Ms Belinda Butcher

Honorary Commissioners

Mr Theodore Webb
Mr John Tibbitts
Mr David Cooley
Mr Barry Greenland
Mr Rohan Reynolds
Ms Rhonda Christie

Mr Carl Spinks OAM
Mr Ian Londish
Mr Paul McIntyre
Mr Craig Watford
Mr Peter Navin

Community Representatives

The Federal Member of Parliament for MacKellar
The Federal Member of Parliament for Bradfield
The Federal Member of Parliament for North Sydney
The Federal Member of Parliament for Berowra
The Federal Member of Parliament for Bennelong
The Federal Member of Parliament for Warringah
The State Member of Parliament for Wahroonga
The State Member of Parliament for Epping
The State Member of Parliament for Lane Cove
The State Member of Parliament for Hornsby
The State Member of Parliament for North Shore
The State Member of Parliament for Ryde
The State Member of Parliament for Davidson
The State Member of Parliament for Pittwater

The State Member of Parliament for Willoughby
The State Member of Parliament for Manly
The State Member of Parliament for Wakehurst
The Mayor of Hunters Hill Council
The Mayor of Hornsby Shire Council
The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai Council
The Mayor of Lane Cove Council
The Mayor of Manly Council
The Mayor of Mosman Council
The Mayor of North Sydney Council
The Mayor of Ryde Council
The Mayor of Pittwater Council
The Mayor of Willoughby Council
The Mayor of Warringah Council

Region Executive Committee

Region President	Dr Neil Mattes OAM
Region Chairperson	Mr Philip Cooper OAM
Region Treasurer	Mr Doug Menzies OAM
Region Commissioner	Mr Kerry Griffin
Deputy Region Commissioner	Mr Charles Turner
Deputy Region Commissioner	Mr Quentin Amos

Elected Members

The Hon Matt Kean	State Member of Parliament for Hornsby
The Hon Julian Lesser	State Member of Parliament for Berowra

Regional Commissioners

Mr Steve Tufts	Mr Mitchell Rath
Mr Phil Donald	Mr Robert Rodgers

Region Rover Council

Region Rover Council Chair

Region Trustees

Region Chairperson	Mr Philip Cooper OAM
Region Treasurer	Mr Doug Menzies OAM
Region Commissioner	Mr Kerry Griffin
Chairman Region Property	Mr Gregg Barr-Jones

Delegates to the Branch Council

Region President	Dr Neil Mattes OAM
Region Chairperson	Mr Philip Cooper OAM
Region Commissioner	Mr Kerry Griffin
Deputy Region Commissioner	Mr Charles Turner
Deputy Region Commissioner	Mr Quentin Amos
Under 30	Ms Elyse Versace



Treasurer Report

The financial year 2022/23 was the first full year of operation post COVID and resulted in an overall operating cost of \$73,871 for the year against an operating budget cost of \$87,659.

The Region's properties resulted in an operating surplus of \$11,327 which was \$26K under budget mainly due to unexpected repairs and maintenance on the various Region controlled properties. In particular the cost of cleaning out of the Belrose Hall in readiness for hand back to Crown Lands in March 2023 was a drain on funds.

Operation of the Region's three camp sites resulted in a cost of \$3,793 to the Region which was better than budget largely due to better than anticipated revenue from Camp Windeyer. Ingleside Camp continues to be a drain on resources as we work towards bringing the camp up to an acceptable standard.

The core business of the Region is to provide Scouting activities and support for Groups which resulted in an operating surplus to \$35,176 which was \$25K over budget and can largely be attributed to the Scouthike 2022 surplus of \$16K. All Scouting Activities, whether at Region or District level are required to achieve a minimum surplus of 10% which I am pleased to report was achieved with all activities conducted.


I would like to thank Donna Staff and Belinda Hose for their valuable help and support over the last twelve months. Thanks, must also go to James Goodman, Neelam Jain and Saeed Saund at the State Service Centre for their help and support.

Doug Menzies OAM
Region Treasurer

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

Last Year Actual \$		This Year Actual \$	This Year Budget \$
	<u>Administration</u>		
	<i>INCOME</i>		
0	Membership Fees	0	0
2,076	Saleable Items Income	2,740	900
0	Sundry Income	0	0
0	Donations	0	0
0	Activity Fees	0	0
0	Interest - Bank	-3	3
0	AGM Fees	0	0
2,076		2,737	903
	<i>EXPENDITURE</i>		
87,264	Salaries & Oncosts	100,923	106,827
1,491	Awards, Badges & Scarves	2,204	500
0	Computer Expenses	99	0
176	Depreciation	0	0
0	Membership Fees	0	0
252	Bank Fees	42	233
19	Catering	40	99
133	Meeting Expenses -net	0	200
514	Postage & courier	91	230
1,618	Printing & Stationery	157	1,920
28	Repairs & Maintenance	116	200
12,000	Rent and security of premises	12,000	12,000
1,260	Cleaning	1,649	1,820
516	Saleable Items Cost	0	500
2,754	Telephone internet	1,771	3,000
0	Staff Amenities	0	0
794	Sundry Expense	826	796
108,818		119,919	128,325
-106,742	Net Administration Expenses	-117,181	-127,423
-92	Development & Promotion	-617	-2,420
-7,039	Camp Ingleside	-5,280	-5,026
-2,947	Camp Kuring-gai	-734	-1,627
3,059	Camp Windeyer	2,221	-686
-6,926	Total Camps	-3,793	-7,339
-7,484	Scouting Activities	35,176	10,664
1,160	Leader Training	1,219	1,230
4,909	Property	11,327	37,628
-115,175	Net Region Cost of Operation	-73,871	-87,659

The Scout Prayer



Almighty and everlasting God,
By whose grace thy servants are enabled to fight
The good fight of faith and ever prove victorious;
We humbly beseech thee so to inspire us
That we may yield our hearts to thine obedience
And exercise our wills on thy behalf.
Help us to think wisely,
To speak rightly,
To resolve bravely,
To act kindly,
To live purely.
Bless us in body and soul
And make us a blessing to our comrades.
Whether at home or abroad
May we ever seek the extension of thy kingdom.
Let the assurance of thy presence
Save us from sinning,
Strengthen us in life and comfort us in death.
O Lord our God, accept this prayer
Amen



Scouts
NSW