



# Sydney North Region

## Rovers:

# Annual Report

## 2024-2025



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# 2024/25 Region Rover Council (RRC)

## Executive Team:

- **Chairperson:** Aaron Kew (Forest)
- **Assistant Chairperson:** Tom Bury (Kissing Point)
- **Secretary:** Ashley Webster (Kissing Point)
- **Treasurer:** Lachlan Catto (Forest)
- **Public Relations:** Emily Marsden (Forest)
- **Merchandise:** Aiden Brisebois (Forest)
- **Activities Co-ordinator – Region Events:**  
Tamara Dudfield (Normanhurst)
- **Activities Co-ordinator – Adventurous:**  
Lily-Rose Kraatzwest (Yaralla)
- **Venturer Liaison:** Blade Puckeridge (Normanhurst)
- **Youth Liaison:** Harley Bryant (Kananga)
- **Training Co-ordinator:** Sam Marinovich (Kananga)
- **Service Co-ordinator:** Simon Buchner (Turrumurra)
- **State Rover Council Delegates:**
  - Patrick Dunstan (Kissing Point)
  - Aimee Savaa (Epping)
  - Kate Rogers (Normanhurst)
  - Callum Moulds (Forest)
- **Regional Commissioner – Rovers:** Elyse Versace
- **Assistant Regional Commissioner - Rovers:** Nick Buchner





***BADEN-POWELL SCOUT  
AWARD RECIPIENT:***

**Erica Otero - Yaralla Rovers**

# Aaron Kew

## Chair

### *Forest Rovers*



You wouldn't believe, despite me being on the RRC Executive for 5+ years, this is only the second report I have written, so here goes nothing ....

As another year of Rovering ends, it is time to reflect on all the amazing and exciting things we did this year as a Region! Like any Region Chair would tell you, it is a wild ride, so what better place to start than at the beginning.

When I ran for this role, I promised the RRC that I was running on a promise of providing more money for value in Rovering, and I think we did this! Whether it was bringing back events that had not been seen in the past few years, such as Not-a-Moot, running the greatest number of courses to help upskill our Rovers, or making CRAP a subsidised event. This was an important principle to me, and I couldn't have done it without my great RRC Executive team behind me! So, I thank them for everything they have contributed this year!

With all this new value, we also saw the continuation of some of the events we know and love! Dragon Skin and ScoutHike ran without a hitch, so congratulations to all those Rovers who were involved in that! Big shout-out to Emily Marsden for running the best-voted Sleep Point at ScoutHike, introducing a rock wall and sock wrestling for the Scouts to enjoy! These events are among the most important for linking with the younger sections and offer great service opportunities.

Talking about service this year, SNR Rovers smashed it again! With the annual national Rover Scouts Blood Drive, you saved 204 lives and, less importantly, topped the challenge! But you guys didn't stop donating there last year. Sydney North Region Rovers donated 154 times just at the Chatswood donation centre, ranking 7th in the teams rankings. This is an amazing feat that everyone who donated should be proud of! We also saw some amazing service at the Unit level. Kananga Rovers and Kissing Point Rovers participated in Relay for Life, raising hundreds of dollars for the cause! Claus for a Cause raised over \$1,500 for the charity Youth Up Front, helping disadvantaged youth find their feet. There was so much service this year that it is hard to mention, but I am sure Simon and the Units will have this on full display!

The RRC launched some great initiatives this year, including but not limited to rebranding and reinvigorating the Unit Leaders bridging course to become the Rover Skills Workshop, creating a centralised storage location, and implementing the SNR-focused: Intro to Rovers document. As always, the RRC has been very vocal on your behalf, including topics like streamlining and updating the alcohol permission process (Trust me, as painful as it has been for you, it has been more painful for me...) and pushing for reforms in the training space, this may take a few years to see the fruits of our labour, but I am sure we will keep fighting for what is important to you at any level of Scouting.

Congratulations to all those awardees this year, whether those Units who got Quality Rovering Awards or those Rovers who got Rover Recognition Awards. Looking closer to home, I would like to congratulate all those awardees of our annual Roscars - you are all worthy recipients, and we do not award these just to anyone, so congratulations again:

*Most Improved Crew* - Kananga Rovers

*Most Outstanding Crew* - Forest Rovers

*Most Outstanding Rover* - Tamara Dudfield (Normanhurst)

*Best Activity* - MMT Magical Mystery Tour (Normanhurst)

*Best Service Activity* - Relay for Life by Kissing Point and Kananga

Talking about things we award, we awarded the second Warawara Award, allowing Ash Williams from Forest Rovers to complete The Camino Inglés, a 113 km hike in Spain. We also saw last year's recipients, Emily Marsden and Daniel Atkinson, complete their Nepal trip. Both of these trips looked amazing. I am so happy we have been awarded this opportunity to give these once-in-a-lifetime adventures out to our Rovers. So, Malcolm Yates, thank you again from all of us at SNR Rovers!

To cut myself off here before I write another thousand words, I believe this year has been such a success. I couldn't have done it without the continued support from my Executive team, the Unit Leaders, the Rover Advisers and every Rover in Sydney North and for that I will be ever grateful! I will fondly look back at my time as RRC Chair, but for now, it is peace out.

Aaron Kew is signing out

\*Mic Drop\*

# Tom Bury

## **Assistant Chair**

### *Kissing Point*

### *Rovers*



As we reflect on another successful year in Roving, 2024 has been a year of challenges, personal growth, and unforgettable experiences for Rovers in Sydney North. On behalf of the RRC, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to each Rover for their dedication and contributions to the Roving program and Scouting as a whole. Personally, this marks the end of my third year on the Executive, and it has undoubtedly been the most challenging yet rewarding year I have experienced. This year, we saw many Rovers push their boundaries, stepping outside their comfort zones to embrace new opportunities. Several individuals embarked on their Certificate of Proficiency or Wood Badge training, while others took on leadership roles within their Units and the RRC Executive. A number of Rovers also took the initiative to lead fundraising events, such as the Bunnings BBQ, in support of their journey to the World Moot in Portugal later this year. These examples highlight the dedication and commitment of our members, both in their personal and professional growth.

Regardless of the nature or scale of your contribution, every effort has been noticed and valued.

We also recognise that the demands of volunteering can sometimes lead to feelings of burnout, and it is completely understandable that many of you may feel a sense of relief with the conclusion of our AGM. I encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect on the past 12 months, celebrate your progress, and take pride in what you have accomplished. As volunteers, each of us plays a vital role in the success of our Region, and every contribution, whether large or small, is meaningful. Let's continue to support one another as we move forward into the next year of Roving.

I am pleased to say that no Units were placed into temporary recess in 2024/25. While some faced significant challenges, they demonstrated resilience, developing their own initiatives to overcome difficulties.

On a more positive note, last year, my predecessor announced the registration of the 1st North Sydney Rover Unit. Unfortunately, this Unit did not get off to the start we had all hoped for. However, in the second half of the year, we completely revamped the Unit, starting from scratch by engaging with Venturer Units in the surrounding Districts of Lower North Shore, Turrumburra, and parts of Moocooboolah. The Unit is now slowly re-developing, with exciting activities on the horizon. The current members are highly enthusiastic and eager to get out and "do stuff," which is fantastic to see. After unexpectedly losing our Rover Adviser due to personal reasons, Elyse and I stepped in as the interim Unit Leader and Rover Adviser. This was both a challenging and rewarding task, and I am grateful for the opportunity to support the growth of this new Unit.

Looking ahead, I am excited to announce that in the upcoming Region Rover Council Annual General Meeting, I will be putting forward an endorsement for a new Unit to be registered in our Region. After two to three years of meeting with their sponsor Unit in Normanhurst, Asquith Rovers have been steadily gaining independence, holding their own meetings and activities. My thanks go to Normanhurst Rovers for their support as Asquith's sponsor throughout this interim period. This is a historic moment for our Region, as Asquith has never had a Rover Unit before. It will also mark the first new Unit registration in Sydney North since Kananga in 2012. I look forward to seeing the positive contributions Asquith will bring to our Region.

Lastly, I want to extend my gratitude to the entire RRC Executive Team for their dedication and hard work throughout the Rover year. Over my three years on the Executive, I have had the privilege of working alongside many members stepping into Executive roles for the first time. Despite this, every single person brought enthusiasm, positivity, and a genuine commitment to supporting Rovers in our Region. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and I truly appreciate the time and energy you have put into making this year a success. It has been an incredible experience working with such a passionate team, and I look forward to seeing how the Executive continues to grow and strengthen Rovering in Sydney North in the years to come.

I wish you and your Units an exciting, challenging, and, most importantly, fun 2025/2026.

Yours in Rovering  
Tom



# Ashley Webster

## Secretary

### *Kissing Point*

### *Rovers*



I am overwhelmingly impressed with the improvements and dedication that everyone has shown in the past year. In terms of reports of course, but also in the way people have been reaching out to each other for help and receiving it with no judgement, only support.

For the next person in this role - enjoy it. You see and hear and learn so much. People entrust you to keep things rolling, to be the backbone of administration for the team. I was saddened that due to conflicting circumstances, it couldn't always be me in the moment. But everyone truly stepped up for me when I needed it, and I couldn't be more proud.

Events this year were plentiful and varied, which is fantastic to see. Training to get more of us outdoors has been underway and the different ways Rovers helped local communities is something of an inspiration.

While it wasn't my first rodeo, this year sure did throw me. A special thank you to Tom who simultaneously did his role and mine for a part of the year, which is incredibly difficult. Thank you to the whole executive for bearing with me through it all.

For the last time - slay, and as always, Kachow!  
Ashley

# Lachlan Catto

## **Treasurer**

### *Forest Rovers*



Welcome to the Treasurer's Annual Report! Now that I have gotten into the swing of things over the past couple of years as a part of the executive team, I must say I am quite enjoying this role. So without further ado, let's look at the financial health of the Sydney North Region Rover Council.

The Region's account did see a lot of cash flow throughout this year. A few notable cash flows include the payments of RRC-run events, such as MootWars and BarbieVenture, through ScoutEvent and Stripe. The RRC has decided to operate and charge fees through its account to avoid complexities with each Crew running their own account and to centralise all the events within the Region. With that, we had a large amount of money come through the account. A large portion of this was paid out to the Crews to cover expenses paid for the event, as outlined in the event tenders. The RRC retained a surplus of \$2,514.74 from these events.

In the 2024 Calendar Year, the RRC account saw a surplus of \$4,480.54. This surplus was largely derived from the Region's event surpluses and levies. Please note that the State levy of \$1,621.50 was not paid out until 2025 due to some technical difficulties. This means a surplus of \$2,141.32 is a more accurate representation of the surplus received for the year. I have constructed a simplified income statement that excludes SRC levies and merchandise transactions. I have decided to exclude SRC levies and merchandise from this figure similar to Jason (the previous Treasurer) as the RRC generally incurs costs almost equal to the income we receive in these categories. The Development Fund did not change its financial position in 2024.

<b><u>Simplified Income Statement</u></b>	<b>Jan 1, <u>2024</u> to Dec 31, 2024</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>Calendar Year 2024</b>
Special Activity - Region Events	\$10,877.50
Levies	\$4,114.75
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$14,992.25</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Bank Charges - Reject Fee	-\$2.50
Special Activity - Region Events	-\$8,362.76
Special Activity - Scout Hike Reimbursement	-\$1,620.00
<del>Special</del> Activity - Course Snacks	-\$23.60
<del>Special</del> Activity - Kalang Kup	-\$206.94
<del>Special</del> Activity - CLBAM	-\$318.11
<del>Special</del> Activity - CRAP	-\$250.00
Leader Costs	-\$239.80
RRC BBQs	-\$205.72
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-\$11,229.43</b>
<b><u>Net Income</u></b>	<b>\$3,762.82</b>

A comprehensive income statement and the budget can be found below. Other significant transactions are as follows: Income received includes \$20,000 for the Warawara Award. These funds have since been transferred to the Warawara Trust and are no longer a part of the RRC's funds. The large deficit is not to be of concern for this exact reason. There was a \$2.50 reject fee for an incorrect payment so ensuring that the bank details have been provided and entered correctly is vital.

The Sydney North Region Rover Council financial statements for 2024 are provided below. These statements provide an overview of the finances of the Region Rover Council.



## Comprehensive Income Statement

<u>Statement of Comprehensive Income</u>	Jan 1, <u>2024</u> to Dec 31, 2024	Jan 1, <u>2023</u> to Dec 31, 2023
Income	Calendar Year 2024	Calendar Year 2023
Special Activity - Stripe Funds*	\$10,877.50	\$0.00
Fundraising - Merch Sales	\$717.72	\$498.66
Warawara Award Funds	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
RRC Levies	\$2,493.25	\$1,067.00
SRC Levies	\$1,621.50	\$1,661.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$45.89
Development Fund - Crew Closure	\$0.00	\$707.62
CRAP Dinner	\$0.00	\$1,932.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$35,709.97</b>	<b>\$25,912.17</b>
Expenses		
Misc Expense	\$0.00	-\$453.97
Bank Charges - Reject Fee	-\$2.50	-\$2.50
Special Activity - Roventure Reimbursement	-\$1,818.53	\$0.00
Special Activity - <del>MootWars</del> Reimbursement	-\$6,460.73	\$0.00
Special Activity - Scout Hike Reimbursement	-\$1,620.00	-\$1,882.10
<del>Special</del> Activity - Course Snacks	-\$23.60	-\$16.25
<del>Special</del> Activity - Not a Moot	-\$83.50	\$0.00
<del>Special</del> Activity - Kalang Kup	-\$206.94	-\$188.60
<del>Special</del> Activity - CLBAM	-\$318.11	-\$448.50
<del>Special</del> Activity - CRAP	-\$250.00	-\$1,977.64
Leader Costs - Secretary Folder	-\$13.00	-\$191.62
Leader Costs - Name badges	-\$226.80	\$0.00
RRC BBQs	-\$205.72	-\$469.27
Merch	\$0.00	-\$425.00
Warawara Award Funds	-\$42,000.00	\$0.00
SNR State Levy	\$0.00	-\$1,661.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-\$53,229.43</b>	<b>-\$7,716.45</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$17,519.46</b>	<b>\$18,195.72</b>

\*Event Income ~~MootWars, BarbieVenture, Mootagascar~~ through Stripe



<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>End Calendar Year 2024</b>	<b>End Calendar Year 2023</b>
Cash - General Funds	\$23,656.56	\$41,176.02
Cash - Development Funds	\$27,555.47	\$27,555.47
Merchandise at cost	\$6,046.28	\$6,717.00
Accumulated Impairment of Merchandise	-\$560.00	-\$560.00
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$56,698.31</b>	<b>\$74,888.49</b>

<b>Cash flow statement</b>	<b>Calendar Year 2024</b>	<b>Calendar Year 2023</b>
<b>Starting Balance</b>		
Cash on Hand	\$0.00	\$0.00
General Funds	\$41,176.02	\$23,687.92
Special Funds	\$27,555.47	\$26,847.85
<b>Total Starting Balance</b>	<b>\$68,731.49</b>	<b>\$50,535.77</b>
Gross Cash Inflow	\$35,709.97	\$35,709.97
Gross Cash Outflow	-\$53,229.43	\$0.00
<b>Net Cash Change</b>	<b>-\$17,519.46</b>	<b>-\$17,519.46</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		
Cash on Hand	\$0.00	\$0.00
General Funds	\$23,656.56	\$41,176.02
Special Funds	\$27,555.47	\$27,555.47
<b>Total Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$51,212.03</b>	<b>\$68,731.49</b>

## 2025 Budget

Below is the budget for 2025. Due to the surplus experienced in 2024, the same Region Levy of \$16.25 is proposed. Including the 2024 State levy of \$11.50, the total proposed levy for SNRRC will come to \$27.75 per Rover.

***Table to derive expected Debit amount for the following year (Credit is just for reference)***

<b>Item</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Debit</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Registration Fees - RRC Levies	\$ 2,356.25		RRC Levies estimated 145 people @ \$16.25pp
Fundraising - Merch Sales	\$ 717.72		Merch Sales. Approximately what we got in 2024
Special Activity - Roventure		\$ (495.00)	Expected deficit of \$45 and expected RRC payout of \$450 for Venturer subsidy
Special Activity - Scout Hike Reimbursement		\$ (2,000.00)	Budgeted amount
Sepcial Activity - Course Snacks		\$ (23.60)	Based on last year's amount
Sepcial Activity - Kalang Kup		\$ (206.94)	Based on last year's amount
Sepcial Activity - CLBAM		\$ (500.00)	Budgeted amount
Sepcial Activity - CRAP		\$ (250.00)	Based on last year's amount
Leader Costs - Secretary Folder		\$ (13.00)	Based on last year's amount
Leader Costs - Name badges		\$ (250.00)	Budgeted amount for Choccys and BBQs
RRC BBQs		\$ (420.00)	Budgeted amount
Region Service Project BBQ		\$ (100.00)	Budgeted amount

*Notes: this budget does not include expenses that are fully covered by participant payments (e.g. CRAP).*

Thank you for re-electing me as your Treasurer, I am honored to be entrusted with the RRC's funds. I wish all the Crews the best for their audit and the upcoming Treasurers for 2025. I might see you there. Who knows if I will be instated again?

YiR,  
Lachy Catto

# Emily Marsden

## Public Relations

### *Forest Rovers*



*“Rovers do Stuff”* is a phrase we throw around all the time, but this year I feel as though our slogan rang true and we really did see our Rovers get out there and do it all.

It has been great to see our Rovers take part in such a diverse range of activities in 2024/25 from annual State, interstate, and international events to our first Warawara Award adventures, Units being awarded Leadership Through Adventure Fund grants, and all sorts of adventurous activities in between. All of these wonderful things have of course made my job easier by providing so much amazing content to use on our platforms.

As my second year in this position, my goal was to continue building on my work in 2023/24 and focus on showing off all the great things our Rovers get up to.

A few key changes to the marketing strategy worth noting in 2024/25 include: more video content which allowed us to gain higher engagement, focused Call To Actions (CTA's) to communicate more clearly with our audience and increased use of the collaborator feature to bring awareness to our Units while promoting SNR Rovers. All of these techniques are designed to increase the engagement, reach and awareness of our content, and ultimately aimed to show potential new members what Rovers is about and how they can get involved.

It's important to highlight how by integrating more video content, our accounts have seen a much higher percentage of non-followers engaging with our content which has helped grow out account followers.



I'm happy to report that overall we have seen growth in all platforms, thanks to the abundance of content available this year. More specifically, we have seen an incredible increase in our contents reach which tells us more people are watching our content and for longer: 287% on Instagram, 379% on Facebook, and 547% on TikTok.

As we head into the 2025/26 Scouting year, I hope all our Units keep up their involvement in events and adventurous activities and I hope that leads to some amazing content. Photos and videos from our Units are the most valuable content to the RRC PR Co-ordinator, so please keep it coming!



YiR,  
Emily

# Aidan Brisebois

## Merchandise Co-ordinator

### *Forest Rovers*



It would be lying to say that 2024 was not a turbulent year for merchandise. Our RRC Square account was lost due to a combination of ToS changes and our legacy Region emails being flaky. Due to not being able to access sales reports on that account, my sales figures may be incomplete though I have done my best to manually track this information from the bank account. Due to the aforementioned issues, I was unable to take card payments throughout a few months of the year, which is unfortunate as card payments are by far the most preferred option. Overall, gross sales for 2024/25 were lower than previous years... is what I would say if we didn't have an absolute ripper of a year regardless! Sales totalled \$1,083.60, which is an encouraging return to our best numbers pre-COVID, and there's plenty of potential for this to grow in 2025.

In the past year there have been sales in all our product categories, even our red polos which have been notoriously hard to sell in past years. Some product categories are now due for restocking: select t-shirt sizes, \_\_\_\_\_ dig scarves stickers, and lanyards. I've been working on the return of old products: key tags and sunglasses; and also the introduction of new products for SNR: stubby holders and hoodies. I am super keen to see our merchandise business flourish in 2025, whether that be under my command or my successor.

#### Grey SNR

Size	Quantity 25/02/24	Quantity 20/03/25
Small	9	0
Medium	12	1
Large	26	9
XL	22	14
XXL	8	7
XXXL	4	0

#### Red Polo

Size	Quantity 25/02/24	Quantity 20/03/25
Small		
	9	8
10	4	3
12	3	2
14	14	13
16	14	13
XXXL	3	2

#### Stickers

Variant	Quantity 25/02/24	Quantity 20/03/25
Rovers	1587	1491
Chicks Dig Scarves	34	12
Dudes Dig Scarves	9	3
Everyone Digs		
Scarves	3	1
I Dig Scarves	5	5
They Dig Scarves	6	6

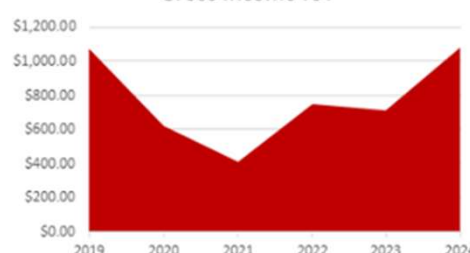
#### Lanyards

Quantity 25/02/24	Quantity 20/03/25
6	0

#### Sales

Category	Sales
Grey SNR	50
Red Polo	6
Stickers	126
Lanyards	6

Gross Income YoY



# Tamara Dudfield

## **Activities Co-ordinator**

### **(Region Events)**

### *Normanhurst Rovers*



2024 was a fantastic year for Sydney North Rovers, with a jam-packed schedule full of local and international events and activities.

Dragon Skin kicked off our 2024 season at Belanglo State Forest with a great turnout from our Rovers and seven top-notch activities. Next up, we ran the biggest Sleep Point 6 we've had in a while at ScoutHike, which was also held at Belanglo State Forest. A massive shout-out to Emily Marsden and her team for co-ordinating such a successful and enjoyable weekend for everyone involved. Throughout the year, some of our Rovers attended Roverway in Norway, while other Units and individuals took on various adventurous activities both interstate and overseas.

A large group of us headed down to Mafeking Rover Park in Victoria for Mudbash over the June long weekend, where Forest and Platabeen members got the opportunity to race their car "Unfairlane". The NSW Rover Ball was Masquerade-themed and was held in Newcastle, and Bush Dance was held in Albury. These were also highly enjoyable events that all attending Rovers loved. Our regular Unit events were a hit, like Normanhurst's Magical Mystery Tour, which was Monster's Inc themed and a crowd favourite. Turramurra's Snooze Cruise was also a smash, with everyone enjoying cruising around Sydney Harbour in their PJs. Platabeen challenged our minds at their annual Trivia Night with a Fairytale theme.

Our Rovers who performed in Hornsby Gang Show were also great, creating a very enjoyable night for all who watched.

We reintroduced Not-A-Moot in SNR after a break due to COVID. Held at Barcoo Swap Campground, Rovers got the chance to explore the Lithgow area, either walking through glowworm tunnels or driving on 4WD tracks. Epping won the Unit vs Unit Roast Off with a brilliant meal enjoyed by all who got to taste it. Kalang Kup brought back high school memories for some, playing Speedaway, a mix of netball, soccer, and touch. We had heaps of SNR and out-of-Region Rovers attending, making it a very enjoyable, albeit hot, day as we figured out the rules of Speedaway. Congratulations to the combined team of MCMK and Gordon, who took home the Kup.

To wrap up 2024, we had CRAP (Christmas Rover Annual Party) and our ROSCARs presentation at Hotel Pennant Hills. We had a fantastic turnout, and everyone relaxed and celebrated a successful 2024. Congratulations to the following recipients:

- *Most Outstanding Unit:* Forest Rovers
- *Most Improved Unit:* Kananga Rovers
- *Most Outstanding Rover:* Tamara Dudfield
- *Best Activity:* Magical Mystery Tour (Normanhurst)
- *Best Service Activity:* Relay for Life – Kissing Point and Kananga Rovers

The start of 2025 saw Kananga Rovers running Mootagascar for our Region's Summer Moot, which was a great success with a large amount of Region and out-of-Region members being present. Congratulations to Normanhurst Rovers for winning the Region competition and to North Lake Macquarie for winning the out-of-Region aspect.

Rome-venture also held by the Region with a great turn-out from both Venturers and Rovers. A massive shout-out goes to Aaron and the exec team for all the hard work that went into organising this event.

I can't wait to see what our Rovers get up to in 2025!

Tamara 😊



# Lily-Rose Kraatzwest

## **Activities Co-ordinator (Adventurous Activities)**

### *Yaralla Rovers*



My goal in this position was to increase the accessibility of information on adventurous activities opportunities to Sydney North Rovers. This involved weekly Facebook posts promoting upcoming courses, an adventurous activities Q&A session at Region Rover Council, collaborating with the Sydney North Region Rockcraft team and arranging Rover-specific courses.

In terms of our Region's Rover participation in adventurous activities, I found that a major obstacle for our Rovers was availability. Despite the wealth of opportunities available across New South Wales alone, our Rovers manage a busy calendar.

We are very fortunate to have so many opportunities available however I found that this could be overwhelming for some and that this can be a barrier to Rover participation in adventurous activities. The lack of knowledge on where to gain the relevant information was compounded by this. To promote participation, I collaborated with the SNR Rockcraft team to ensure, that where possible, we reduce the overlap between Moots and other Region events.

I feel that raising awareness of the many opportunities takes much more than a single year in this role. That being said, I am pleased to have received feedback from fellow Rovers that the information I've distributed or the questions I've answered, across Units have been helpful. In this way, I feel that I've fulfilled my main objective in holding this role.

The majority of inquiries that I received in this role were relating to readily available information that can be found on the Scouts NSW Adventurous Activities Hub. There is a wealth of information included that many of our Rovers would and have found useful. I recommend that Rovers utilise this to their advantage. I recommend that the RRC should continue to raise awareness of this resource as much as possible.

As much as I would like to continue as Adventurous Activities Co-ordinator, I require as much time as possible in the next 12 months to dedicate to finishing my university studies. I look forward to potentially holding the role again in future should my chronic overcommitment and overscheduling allow!

For the next person in this role, I recommend using the existing available resources and maximising collaboration with related activities groups like the rockcraft and alpine teams. They are an incredible asset to our organisation, who represent an aspect of Scouting that is very special to myself and many others. I encourage each of our Region's Rovers to get outdoors and step outside their comfort zones.

I'm grateful to have had this opportunity and I look forward to hearing more of what our Region's Rovers get up to over the coming years, especially with the support of initiatives like the Warawara Award and the Dick and Pip Smith Leadership through Adventure Fund.

Lily-Rose Kraatzwest  
Yaralla Rovers

# Blade Puckeridge

## **Venturer Liaison**

### *Normanhurst Rovers*



We rounded off the year with Roventure run by the RRC Executive in February 2025. Let's not forget that 2024 saw a great Roventure run by Platabeen Rover Unit, with a large attendance (137 participants) by both Venturer and Rovers alike. Furthermore, with the success of Dragon Skin 2024, Venturers got to meet their Rover Units again and strengthen their connections from a Region and State level of activities. Remember the real way we connect with the Venturers...

With the 7 Districts, 10 Rover Units, and 42 Venturer Units, there has been a lot of great activities and opportunities for Venturers to get to know their Rovers! Of course, there have been some changes and tweaks but that's to be expected as Units evolve and links change.

As the VLO, I was there to assist when required and provide support or new concepts for retention and connecting between the sections. We had discussions on a new 'Fun Day' for all Venturers and Rovers to strengthen the bonds between Units and sections. While this didn't get off the ground for this year, I feel with the right steps, the new VLO and team can bring it to life as an awesome activity for both sections.

With the help of Keeley as my assistant for the start of the year, she drafted and sent out an awesome review form, to gather information about how Rovers are perceived by Venturers and the reasons for Venturers linking or not linking to Rovers. While there weren't too many responses, it still provided key insight into the work VLOs, and Units can do to further strengthen and retain more Venturers into Rovers.

Time for some new spreadsheets. We now have a new way of keeping in touch with the Venturer Units. I have created a spreadsheet with all the key information for each Venturer Unit, sorted by Rover Unit, allowing Rover Units to check who the Vennie leaders are and how they can contact them. Furthermore, we also have a new template for all future VLOs so they can collate and send out information about the Venturers over 17 as soon as required. Through these new spreadsheet templates, we are able to provide information for the Rover Units when required.

Within the final Venturers Over 17 report we have around 138 Venturers over the age of 17! Meaning that within the next few years, there should be a great increase in the number of fresh Rovers! We as Rover Units and even just as Rovers need to support the Venturer Section and ensure we can make the transition from Venturers to Rovers as seamless as possible.

YiR,  
Blade



# Harley Bryant

## Youth Liaison Officer

### *Yaralla Rovers*



#### What went well?

- Encouraged Rover Units to attend local Scout events to forge better connections with their linking groups beyond the vennies
- Had Rovers attend JOTA/JOTI to assist in a soldering workshop
- Opened more communication between Rovers and Leaders of each age section
- Had Rovers attend a couple of Scout family campfires meaning the younger age groups get to meet and find out more about Rovers
- Rovers helped run the Northern Beaches and Garigal District colour run

#### What could have gone better?

- More Rover attendance that wasn't just my own Unit
- Gotten notified sooner of events by Scout Leaders as that meant I was unable to get Rovers to go because there wasn't enough notice
- Received more communication from Rovers regarding whether they can attend or not

#### Other comments-

While we did get Rovers attending some events, at the end of the day it was mostly my own Unit. I can understand that a role like YLO has its benefits, as when you do get Rovers attending events, the younger sections enjoy meeting older Scouts and finding out what they do, but it is a really big struggle to get Rovers to interact and attend the events for younger sections if they are not already youth leaders, especially as the main focus is on Vennies. It was a good year, but I do wish there had been more attendance from other Rover Units.

# Sam Marinovich

## **Training Co-ordinator**

### *Kananga Rovers*



The focus for this year with training has been on outreach and getting knowledge to as many people as possible. Following Lily's work last year, I continued to push reminders about courses out through Sydney North FB groups, as well as the Unit Leader email. As I was going through the course myself it helped me to see who was going and get an understanding of what Units were following through with their succession planning.

Another focus on the year has been towards the Unit Leader Bridging Course – or Rover Skills workshop. The name changed as we tried to open the course to more people within the Region, even those who weren't considering formal training. Both this and opening the course to others out of the Region, help to boost numbers to the workshop. The course has also been slightly altered, to cover more missing content that has been dropped as sections start to merge.

Finally, congratulations to all those who achieved their training goals, whether that is attending one course, achieving your Certificate of Proficiency, or completing your advanced training and getting your Wood Badge. I hope that all those who set training goals for 2025/6 can achieve them.

YiR,  
Sam

# Simon Buchner

## **Service Co-ordinator**

### *Turramurra Rovers*



Taking on the role of service officer this year was an unexpected yet rewarding experience. Despite being away most weekends last year I was able to attend exec meetings and keep the Region updated on service opportunities available in the area. Our Region service project was finalised towards the end of my tenure, I'm glad that the RSP is a continued commitment. I encourage the next Service Co-ordinator to look at extending our service efforts to include community as well as Scouting service.

YiR,  
Simon

# Elyse Versace

## Regional Commissioner - Rovers



I know what you may be thinking, there is already a typo in this report because it says 'Elyse' is the Sydney North Regional Commissioner Rovers which can't be right because that is Nick Buchner's role. This year saw Nick and I swap roles as he stepped into the Assistant position and I stepped up into the RC - Rovers role as we entered the final stages of our handover.

It's always pleasing to look back on a busy and active year for Sydney North's Rover section. Units have continued to engage in a wide variety of activities from 4WDing in Central Australia to hiking in Tasmania and canyoning, caving, camping and everything else in between! Our Rovers continue to not only run amazing activities for themselves but also for others including Turramurra Rovers' Harbour Cruise, Normanhurst Rovers' Magical Mystery Tour, Forest Rovers' Murder Mystery, Kananga Rovers' Bingo Night and Platabeen Rovers' Trivia night as well as Kalang Kup and CRAP Region Dinner run by Tamara Dudfield from Normanhurst Rovers.

The Region Moot this year, titled 'Mootagascar' was well attended and enjoyed by Rovers across NSW. Congratulations to Kananga Rover Unit for running a successful event! Unfortunately, we did not have any Rover Units volunteer to run this year's Roventure so the RRC Executive stepped up to run 'Rome-Venture'. This was a collaborative effort with almost every Rover Unit attending with their linking Venturers and bringing an activity to run for each other.



Service to the Scouting and wider community continued to play an important part in Rovering in Sydney North with our Rovers giving their support to ANZAC Day, Dragon Skin, ScoutHike, grounds maintenance at both Barra Brui Activities Hall and Ingleside Scout Camp and a notable contribution to the National Rover Blood Drive, making the largest number of donations of any Region in Australia for the third year in a row. Two of our Rover Units also participated in Relay for Life with each raising over \$2,000 for cancer research and Forest Rover Unit raised over \$1,500 for Youth Up Front with their annual event, Claus for a Cause.

We continue to be proud of Sydney North Rovers' engagement in training. This year has seen more Rovers completing their Program Support Leadership training with 100% of our Rover Unit Leaders holding the Responsible appointment for their Units and embodying the 'Youth Led, Adult Supported' ideal of Scouts. Sydney North Rovers are also taking steps to better prepare themselves as Rovers and Unit Leaders by continuing to run their Rover Skills Workshop and Treasurer's Course which are now being attended by Rovers from other Regions! We have also had several Rovers complete their Scouting Leadership course this year with congratulations going to Blade Puckeridge from Normanhurst Rovers for receiving his Wood Badge! I know others aren't far off joining Blade and I look forward to more Wood Badges being awarded to SNR Rovers in the coming year.

Sydney North Rovers dominated the Rover Recognition Awards this year with worthy recipients from Gordon, Yaralla, Forest, and Kissing Point Rover Units as well as Kananga and Kissing Point Rover Units receiving Quality Rovering Awards. Congratulations as well to Erika Otero from Yaralla Rovers on the achievement of the Baden-Powell Scout Award which is an incredible achievement!

This year also saw two of the recipients of our Warawara Award complete their adventures, with Emily Marsden and Daniel Atkinson hiking the Annapurna Circuit Trek in Nepal and Ash Williams hiking 120 km of The Camino Ingles route of Camino de Santiago in Spain.

As we look forward to the 2025/26 year, I would like to thank the Region Rover Council Executive Team and all those who put their hands up to be Unit Leaders last year, your hard work is acknowledged and appreciated. I would like to also acknowledge the hard work of Aaron Kew, our RRC Chair who has not only led the team fantastically over the last 12 months but also took the lead on running this year's Roventure. Aaron was a great RRC Chair to work with in my first year in the RC Rovers role. I would also like to wish the new Region Rover Council Executive Team all the best in their new roles.

As I close out my report, I would be remiss in not acknowledging and thanking my mentor and now predecessor, Nick Buchner, for the incredible passion, dedication, knowledge and support he has not only provided Sydney North Rovers but to the Rover Section as a whole.

Outside of his time in Rovers Nick has been a massive supporter and advocate for the Rover Section in his position as Sydney North Regional Commissioner Rovers for an incredible 32 years as well as Assistant Regional Commissioner Rovers over the last year. I truly believe that Sydney North Rovers are as strong, knowledgeable, capable and willing to stand up for what they believe in due to the support and guidance Nick has provided which I have had the pleasure to experience first hand as a Rover and now as the Regional Commissioner - Rovers. I have definitely got some big shoes to fill but am comforted by the fact that Nick is not dead and is only a phone call away should I need to pick his experienced brain!

It continues to be an absolute honour and pleasure supporting the amazing Rovers of Sydney North Region and I look forward to hopefully continuing to support and watch you all as you achieve your goals and get the most out of your time in Rovers.

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 Buchner

## Assistant Regional Commissioner - Rovers



It's again been a busy and active year for Rovers in Sydney North, and Elyse's report ably covers the myriad of activities and other goings-on.

I have continued to provide day-to-day support to your RRC Executive team, assist with the various training activities delivered by the RRC, and promote the wide-ranging opportunities available to Rovers.

My thanks as always, go to everyone who has contributed to the ongoing high standard of Rovering in the Region and congratulations to those who received achievement or recognition awards, or contributed to the successful organisation of events and activities.

Reflecting on my 33 years in the Commissioner role, I've been gratified to see successive generations of Rovers take on the challenges and possibilities offered by this great section of Scouting. Whether undertaking adventures, running successful local events, providing service to the community, or solving the occasional problem, it is always pleasing to see Rovers getting the most out of their Rovering. Highlights are almost too many to mention, but a couple of standouts have included seeing the strong Sydney North participation in successive World Moots, and the variety of Balthasar and now Warawara Awardees.

I have worked very closely with Elyse, initially as a member of the RRC Exec and more recently in an extended handover as Commissioner, and am in no doubt that her knowledge, enthusiasm, and level head will serve the Rover section well.

I wish all of you the very best and will watch with interest as Rovers in Sydney North continue to develop and embrace all the opportunities the section offers... and have the time of their lives!

Yours in Rovering,  
Nick Buchner



## *A special thank you...*

In honour of all his hard work to the Rovers section, Sydney  
North Rovers would like to thank-

# NICK BUCHNER



for his tireless efforts

Words cannot express the gratitude felt by the community for his ongoing help for many years. Nick has been a fixture in Scouting but even more so to Sydney North Rovers! So instead of just words for expressing our thanks, we'll let the photos do it:







***Thank you again Nick for all your efforts, and all the best as you move to the next phase of your adventure!***

# *UNIT REPORTS*

# Epping Rovers

Unit Leader: Jonathan Dell

Epping in 2024/25 continued the trend both individual and Unit growth, with our program and participation matching well with our increased numbers. We've done well with Venturer events, fundraising, and attendance at larger events.

Weekly activity highlights included canoeing, iceblocking, electronics, fort making night with the Venturers, go-karting, paint 'n sip, wildlife, Metro, Karaoke, and museum nights! Meanwhile, our weekend attendance has been excellent, with participation in Bush Dance, Rover Ball, MMT, Mudbash, Mootology, You Belong with Moot and Roventure, amongst others. In between all this, we managed to fit in a record three Crew camps, including one at a member's family farm in Coffs Harbour over the Easter long weekend!

With a relatively young Unit, we're appreciating how important it is to make sure new members are brought up to speed and feel part of our Unit, and I'm proud of the work our members have done to make us a better Rover Unit, and to develop every members' skills and ambitions to grow as individuals.

Looking forward, we're eyeing to run some kind of Region event, and some of us are preparing for World Moot, a fantastic once-in-a-Rovers-lifetime opportunity they are sure to remember. Work on diversifying our program continues thanks to keen members enthusiasm, as well as more emphasis on Service. We're also welcoming a new wave of Rovers to various positions, and keen for them learning, doing, making mistakes, and learning even more!

Finally, I'd like to thank the hard work of the individuals in our Unit to organise nights, execute plans, and tireless work and admin behind the scenes to make Epping the awesome Unit that it is. And of course, best of luck to my successor Ian, who will have the Unit in capable hands with his energy, knowledge, and attitude. Here's to an even better 2025!

Jonno



# Forest Rovers

Unit Leader: Aidan Brisebois



I'll start my report the same way it started last time – what a year! 2024 saw Forest Rovers making their way across the country and around the globe on many, many adventures.

Closer to home, we kicked off the year in a big way running Moot Wars for Summer Moot at Camp Ku-ring-gai and kept the ball rolling with attendance at other Moots of the season, as well as taking home the trophy at Platabeen's Barbieventure. Dragon Skin and ScoutHike were two more events we had a part in running, with Emily doing a great job as Sleep Point 6 Co-ordinator.

Later in the year, it was great to get Not-a-Moot off the ground again which I co-hosted with Tamara (SNR Activities). Mudbash was also a blast with us bringing the Unfairlane down for its debut race. We attended all the Region's staple events: MMT, Kalang Kup, Harbour Cruise, CRAP Dinner, and of course our own Claus for a Cause, while also having fun giving new things a go such as the insular peninsula inter-Unit camp and our survival skills camp.



Now for the big stuff. In 2024, Forest members set out on one LTAF expedition and two Warawara Award trips! For over two weeks in May we completed a road trip through the Outback, seeing the most beautiful sights along the way such as the Kanku-Breakaways, Kings Canyon, Uluru and Kata Tjuta, Lake Mungo, and Ikara-Flinders Ranges. Of course, we didn't stop there. In September, Ash went international to walk The Camino de Santiago, a 120km pilgrimage through the picturesque countryside of northern Spain. If that wasn't enough, Daniel and Emily then got to go to Nepal, trekking the fascinating Annapurna Circuit and luckily not getting too altitude sick.

We also learnt a whole lot in 2024, with members completing a variety of courses from rockcraft to alpine to 4WDing. We're keen for 2025 to continue this trend, both for administrative and adventurous training.

So what do we have to show for it? Accolades, of course! We are immensely proud of Emily for receiving a 2024 Rover Recognition Award, and we also made it big at the ROSCARS, taking home the award for Most Outstanding Unit.

Finally, we said goodbye to our good friend Ash, giving her the boot in January. Ash has done so much for Forest, as well as for the Region having been on the Region exec. It's sad to see her leave Rovers and we wish her the best in her future endeavours.

Overall, we've had a great time over the past year, and it doesn't look like that's going to change for 2025, so bring it on!





# Gordon Rovers

Unit Leader: Sophie Carter



What a brilliant year we've had! 2024/25 was truly awesome at Gordon. As Crew Leader, I couldn't possibly list everything we achieved, so here is a brief recap of some of our most thrilling adventures.

## **Trip 1: Easter Part 2 – Barrington Tops Adventure**

Easter is always a crew highlight, and this year's four-day trip was unforgettable.

Day Two saw us tackling white-water kayaking on the Barrington River. For many, it was their first time, but with guidance from experienced crew members, everyone had a blast.

Day Three featured two canyons, with Gloucester Canyon's waterfall abseil being

a standout. The second canyon included a fun investiture—launching three new members off a 5m rock jump into the water!

Day Four brought another intense white-water kayaking challenge. Some struggled, but the crew's unwavering support was a testament to our spirit and shows just why Easter Camp remains our most attended and cherished event.

## Trip 2: Sophie's BPSA Backcountry Ski Expedition

Day 1 (Falls Creek to Johnson's Hut, 12km): The day began early with porridge before hitting the slopes. Gear issues quickly arose, with broken poles and mixed snow conditions slowing us down. After hours of skiing and hiking through patchy snow, we reached the newly renovated Johnson's Hut, where we warmed up by the fireplace, cooked dinner, and prepped for the next day.

Day 2 (Johnson's Hut to Fitzgerald's Hut, 6km): We planned to summit Mt Nelse but turned back due to a whiteout. Instead, we navigated through fog and strong winds to reach Fitzgerald's Hut. Along the way, Ethan's boot broke and required an emergency duct tape fix.

Despite the challenges, we made it, set up camp outside, and enjoyed vegetable tofu curry before bed.

Day 3 (Fitzgerald's Hut to Wallace's Hut, 16km): Our toughest day. After a porridge breakfast, we covered 16km in tough conditions, dealing with fallen trees, no-snow sections, and rocky terrain. Wallace's Hut was a welcome sight after the gruelling trek. That evening, we relaxed with hot drinks and mac and cheese before heading to bed early.

Day 4 (Wallace's Hut to Investiture Point via Rover Chalet, 6km): With easier skiing conditions, we had a fun, pack-free ski to Investiture Point, where we enjoyed stunning views, made raspberry snow cones, and found some phone reception. After a visit to the Bogong Rover Chalet for a tour and warm drinks, we skied back to Wallace's Hut.

Day 5 (Wallace's Hut to Falls Creek, 10km): We began at 5:15 AM, skiing icy paths in low visibility. As we approached Langford's Gap, the fresh powder and sunrise lifted our spirits. After skiing across the dam and honing our skills on Wombat's Ramble, we packed up and headed home, with a well-earned stop at a bakery in Myrtleford to cap off the trip.





### **Trip 3: Mt Buffalo, Victoria**

Over the Australia Day weekend, the rovers ventured to Mt Buffalo in Victoria to take on some more challenging and technical canyons. After a long drive the evening before, we kicked off our adventure with the short yet scenic Eurobin Falls, which not only offered stunning views but also gave us a chance to refresh our rigging and communication skills before tackling more demanding canyons. On Day 2, the crew faced the iconic Twins and Triplets, marking a milestone for many as they completed their first natural slide and experienced more intense vertical flow. The final day brought us to the pinnacle of Mt Buffalo canyoning—Crystal Brook. This breathtaking and technically challenging canyon tested our guiding abilities, but we all had a fantastic time and emerged safely. It was an incredible trip, organised by Ethan, and one that significantly enhanced the skills of the entire group.



### **Trip 4: New Zealand Extravaganza**

Kayaking at NZ Kayak School

This intensive five-day course pushed us to our limits. We trained threetimes a day, starting with rolling techniques in the pool, then moving to the river for real-world practice. By the end, we had mastered eddy hopping, ferry gliding, and rolling in the flow. The course was both challenging and rewarding, and we left with a newfound confidence in white-water kayaking.



## Mt Aspiring Mountaineering

This adventure tested both our endurance and decision-making. We hiked into Aspiring Hut on New Year's Eve and continued to French Ridge Hut the next day, battling steep terrain and heavy packs. Reports from other hikers suggested unsafe conditions on the Quarter Deck pass, forcing us to adjust our plans. Despite the setback, a small group attempted the climb, reaching three-quarters of the way before returning back due to worsening weather. The experience reinforced the importance of preparation and adaptability in mountaineering.



## Canyoning Across the South Island

We spent multiple days tackling some of New Zealand's most thrilling canyons. In Haast Pass, we completed two canyons a day, filled with jumps, slides, and icy water.

After a much-needed break in Queenstown (and our first proper shower in weeks), we took on Major Mayhem in Glenorchy, a long and cold canyon filled with challenging drops. Finally, we ventured to Fiordland for the remote Ferrero Canyon, navigating through unknown terrain with minimal guidance. This final adventure ended with a well-deserved pub meal in Te Anau before we slowly made our way back to Christchurch.

From kayaking to mountaineering and canyoning, this year was packed with adventure. We pushed our limits, supported one another, and made unforgettable memories. Huge thanks to our guides, friends, and supporters—bring on another year of exploration!

# Kananga Rovers

Unit Leader: Sam Marinovich

This year has been a year of Kananga stepping up to challenges. We started the term farewelling Lily as she moved onto Yaralla, and the newly elected Unit officials prepared to face their biggest challenges yet – running a Moot and planning an interstate trip, gifted to us from the Leadership Through Adventure Fund.

We started off with strong start attendance at Dragon Skin and ScoutHike, running an activity base at both events. At Skin we managed to win the “Pump at the Jam” award, while ScoutHike was a wonderful time with Bayview Venturers.

We spend a good portion of this year focusing on developing our relationships with our Venturers. We tried to reach ensure all our regular feeder groups (Bayview and Brookvale / Curl Curl), as well as started to meet with a few new ones (Allambie, Fairlight/Manly and Harbord). We also focused on supporting others and being present in our community. We made a return to “Relay for Life,” where we managed to raise over \$2,000 for Cancer Council. We also contributed a major portion towards the Rover Lifeblood Challenge, both in individual donations as well as a Crew night to do it. Harley was also an immense help to other Units as well, helping to get them set.

In July we also said farewell to Frim. Frim has been Kananga’s RA since the Unit reformed in 2012, and after 12 years of service, we said farewell. All the reformed Unit’s members (from 2012 to present) were invited for his booting in October, where we also managed to boot Will Bailes (from 2019) and Will Seale (from 2022). All will be properly missed.







In February, all our hard work came together to present “Mootagascar: I like to Moot it, Moot it.” At Glenfield Scout Activity Centre on February 7th-9th 150 Rovers came along to join us for an insanely hot weekend, full of fun, crown hunting, and trying to escape (the heat). From all the feedback, it was a great weekend, and congratulations to Normanhurst (and Asquith) for winning the Moot.

Three days later, we jumped on plane down to Tasmania to go complete the Walls of Jerusalem hike. We managed to have an amazing time down there, but due to unforeseen weather extremes and the party not being fully prepared, we had to walk out early. Despite this, we still managed to do a few extra walks and helped with 4th Launceston (the Group we were staying at). Overall, it was amazing trip, and thanks to Dick and Pip Smith for funding the adventure.

Despite all our big adventures, the Unit was still recognised for all its efforts in Service and running a decent program, with “Most Improved Crew” at CRAP, a “Quality Rovering Award” at the SRC Dinner, and a “Service Bannerette” from the B-P Lodge. I am proud of what the Unit has done and achieved, and hope we are able to keep this momentum into 2025. I wish Harley and the new Unit Council all the best for this new year.

YiR,

Sam



# Kissing Point Rovers

Unit Leader: Rob Sewell

2024 has been a ride, Kisso has made the most of another good year kicking butt, getting out there and doing the things that we love. We have gotten up to all sorts of shenanigans over the year from getting creative with tattoos and tie dye, to going technical with construction, engineering and building nights. Staying in with board games or getting out and about with vivid or a good old formal Maccas, Kisso really has done it all. While the ride can get bumpy, we've had each other's backs every step of the way.

This year we did have to say farewell to a member but also gained that number sevenfold, it's crazy to look back just a couple years ago and see where we were and where we are now, Kissing Point has truly flourished and will continue to do so.

Back to our shenanigans Kisso had a representation at, well honestly, just about everything on the Rover calendar this year. Moots, MMT, Harbour Cruise and Claus for a Cause just to name a few. Not to mention as always, our presence within Hornsby Gang Show with more and more members both on and off the stage with every passing year. And who could forget Dragon Skin? With a killer base that won the Vennies choice award along with members running comms, security and night activities it was a weekend that had us all push ourselves to new limits and come out the other side ready for more.



As always service was a big thing in Kisso HQ with blood drives, ANZAC Day events and more recently working bees with our fellow Scouts, every time Kisso has come out the gate swinging and ready to do our part for both ours and the wider community.

A personal highlight for me has been not only watching Kissing Point grow and evolve but more over its members, seeing the personal growth, the relationships they develop with their fellow Unit mates, the adversities and challenges they overcome. Each and every member of this Unit has put their all into themselves and Kisso.

We wish everyone the very best for the coming year and while not knowing what the rest of 2025 has in store for us, we will continue to uphold what Roving means to us and keep on doing what we do best.



# MCMK Rovers

Unit Leader: Andre Lamb

Our year was sandwiched between bootings, with our long time member Cam Porter at the start, and ex-Normo Rover Taylor Herbertson at the end.

This year, our numbers have greatly reduced, and the quality of our night activities has greatly increased (debatably so, but there have undoubtedly been some very new and creative ideas). We went go-karting at Eastern Creek, made some short films, created a plethora of PowerPoint presentations, built cardboard forts, had a classic show-&-tell, practiced martial arts in a dojo, played an MCMK themed escape room and recreated the show Taskmaster, amongst other things.

While our numbers began to dwindle early on, as a few members had other commitments that clashed with our nights, we made up numbers for the bigger nights by joining up with other Units, such as Kisso for both a D&D session and Theatresports competition, and Normo for an Oz-Tag rematch. We also had a number of non-Rovers invited along for a trivia and craft night.

Our Unit has managed to grow in other ways this year, doing a deep clean of our den and cage for the first time in what feels like years, updating our very old constitution to be more succinct and modern, and updating our logo to be more sleek, as well as incorporating some older motifs.



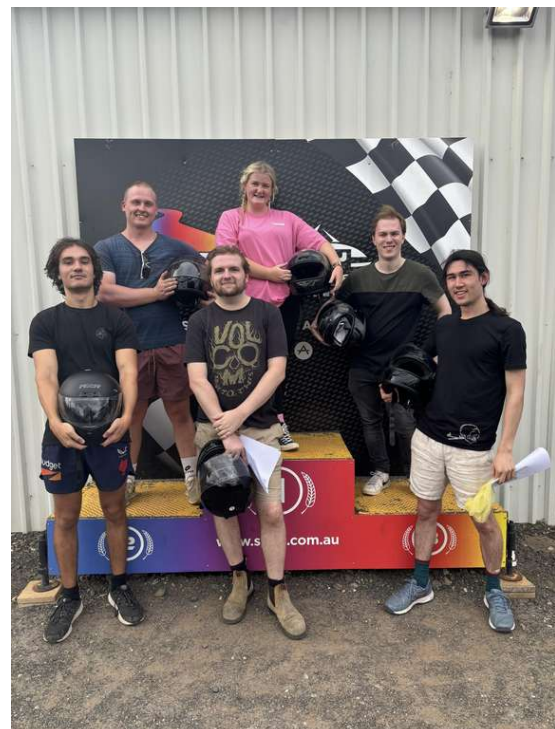




We attended a few events this year, Normo's MMT, where we won best-dressed and second place overall, Tamara's Kalang Kup, where we joined forces with Gordon and Hawkesbury to win back the trophy, and Turrumurra's Harbour Cruise, which was an absolute blast as usual. And as always, our Unit was heavily involved in Hornsby Gang Show, with every member playing a part behind the curtains or on the stage.

Over the past year, we planned a few linking nights with our Venturers but struggled to find times and dates that lined up. We did manage to have one joint night, where we participated in axe throwing together, as well as attending West Pymble's annual trivia, where we worked together to claim first place! For 2025, in the first half alone, we have planned many joint nights with our Venturers, in the hopes that we can get to know them better and have them join us when they age out.

While we are struggling with numbers, we are standing strong and doing our best to pull through. We look forward to what 2025 can bring us!



# Normanhurst Rovers

Unit Leader: Tamara Dudfield

2024 was a year of growth and change for Normanhurst Rovers. We welcomed new members from Venturers and the community, and for the first time since COVID, we truly found our calling in the Rover movement, actively participating in multiple events.

Our first major event was Dragon Skin, with 13 Rovers attending. Our base, 'Framed,' challenged Venturers to sneak through the Louvre to replace a broken artwork. ScoutHike was another significant event, with ten Rovers running bases and taking on various roles at Sleep Point 6.

Some of our Rovers enjoyed a weekend away in the Blue Mountains, visiting the Zig Zag Railway and exploring the area through bushwalks. This was followed by the Masquerade Ball in Newcastle, where we had the pleasure of investing Liam and Miranda into Normo. The adventures continued as we travelled to Mafeking Park in Victoria for Mudbash over the June long weekend. We also attended 'Not-a-Moot' and 'Avatar: The Last Mootbender' for more enjoyable weekends away.

Normo's biggest event of the year, MMT Inc, was a huge success, culminating at Warren's property, which proved to be even better than a pub. This event won us the best activity for 2024 at our ROSCARS presentation. To conclude the 2024-2025 Moot season, we attended SNR's Mootagascar in early 2025, where we won the Region competition and invested Lauren.





Luke and Robert Leverton had the opportunity to visit Norway for Roverway, experiencing international Rovering and bringing back many stories and adventures to share. Blade was awarded his Wood Badge for completing his Advanced Leadership Training in the Youth Program.

In 2024, we also focused on building meaningful connections with our feeder Venturer Units, regularly engaging with them and easing the transition for our up-and-coming Rovers. We participated in trivia nights, wide games, battle of the sections, and box wars, to name a few.

During 2024 and the start of 2025, we had to say goodbye to Steph, Mark, Tom, and Dan. These individuals were integral to the Normo family, and their departure was deeply felt.

As Unit Leader in 2024, I am incredibly proud of Normo. The Unit has embraced every challenge, transforming our dynamics and creating a more inviting and active space for everyone involved. While it hasn't always been easy, it has been highly rewarding. I thank all of Normo for their support and trust in me as their Unit Leader. I look forward to another successful year for Normo Rovers in 2025.



# Platabeen Rovers

Unit Leader: Jasmine Small



Platabeen has had an exciting and adventurous year with a range of activities and social events. Platabeen enjoyed a few Bunnings BBQs in the last year. The year started by supporting the Randwick and Westmead Children's Hospitals with a Bunnings BBQ which ended with our Rovers getting to meet the Easter bunny! We also had a Bunnings BBQ to start raising money for our Unit and the members who are attending Portugal Moot.

RSL ANZAC Village asked us to help out with their dawn service for ANZAC Day for a second year. We had such a good time last year, how could we say no! We enjoyed it again and are planning on doing it again in 2025.

ScoutHike rolled around again and we had a blast running the rock climbing wall. Although it was cold in Belanglo, we enjoyed hanging out with the Vennies and Scouts. The Easter long weekend saw half of our Unit hike in Kosciusko National Park to tackle the ten highest peaks hike, while the other half enjoyed Dragon Skin, running another amazing base.

We unfortunately had to say goodbye to Oscar this year. Oscar had been apart of Scouts for a long time and is continuing by being an adult helper with his Scout Group. Oscar's booting saw a lot of people gather at Turon River where we enjoyed 4WD, walks and campfires. Oscar was a motivated and reliable member who will be missed.





Mudbash was the highlight of our year. We enjoyed supporting Platabeen and Forest's car, "Team Unfairlane" that participated in their first Mudbash. Almost our entire Unit headed down to Victoria for a fun weekend of cars and activities. Although it took a lot of preparation and commitment, we had an incredible time and are excited to see where Team Unfairlane go next. Our members Josie and Meg enjoyed to slopes this year as they headed down to Bogong to do some cross-country skiing. They were lucky with perfect skiing weather and a great group of people.

Another great and successful fundraising Trivia Night run by Platabeen. We raised a lot of funds for The Stroke Fundraiser and has heaps of fun dressed up in fairytale characters.

Thanks Normo Rovers for hosting another great MMT. Platabeen had two teams attend: Monsterbeen & Platabeen inc. Both teams had a lot of fun and can't wait for the next one.

Five of our members attended the Lifeblood Donor Centre to donate blood and plasma for the Rover Scout Blood Drive.

Kalang Kup saw Platabeen and Forest team up to participate in Speedway. Although we were not the winners, we all enjoyed learning the rules and playing against the Region. Platabeen got their snooze on at Harbour Cruise – Pyjama party. We danced the night away like always and had so much fun.

Platabeen hosted the first Northern Beaches District Camp which saw Platabeen, Forest, and Kananga headed to Camp Coutts for a sunny weekend with Lego building, hammocks and a team competition. We are hoping this is an annual event.

That's a wrap. bring on 2025!



# Turramurra Rovers

Unit Leader: Simon Buchner



Wow, this year has been a unique one... we have had a gross increase to our numbers from five at 2024's AGM to six at 2025's. We had two members age-out and one removed, while we gained four... two from Venturers and two from off the street.

We've done some fantastic activities this year and strengthened bonds. While we did struggle to get away on weekends due to life commitments, our new Tuesday meeting nights have remained engaging and memorable highlights included Would I Lie To You?, a car rally with Abbotsford and friends, multiple sports and board game nights (what even are the UNO rules?) Similarly we were able to frequently engage with the Region at joint nights and Region events.

We ran a successful Dragon Skin base in tandem with Yaralla and various leaders, which strengthened Venturer connections and visibility.

And who could forget Snooze Cruise, certainly the comfiest harbour cruise we've ever had, with thanks to all who lent a hand to pull off the 31st iteration of the event.

In terms of service we assisted at ANZAC Day and performed maintenance duties at Barra Brui and Ingleside.

The future is certainly looking bright for Turramurra!



# Yaralla Rovers

Unit Leaders: Toby Luck and Emilia Ertanin

A Remarkable Year for Yaralla Rovers!



2024 has been a year of significant growth and achievement for Yaralla Rovers! We started the year with just three invested Rovers, and as of this report, we have proudly expanded to six invested Rovers.

We had Erika's Otero's Booting in May, held at Cathedral of Ferns. This booting was very special, as we took time to reflect on the many fond memories of Erika and her invaluable contributions to our Unit. Erika was crucial in keeping Yaralla Rovers afloat during a challenging period of low membership. Simply put, without her, our Unit would not still be here today.

This year, our Unit experienced significant growth. Siobhan joined us as an "off-the-street" recruit at the start of the year, and over the last 12 months, she has fully embraced Rovering and become incredibly involved and learning about Scouting and attending many events. Toby led our Unit for most of the year while Emilia was completing her training. Toby's tireless efforts in recruitment and retention played a pivotal role in our growth, bringing in new faces and helping us strengthen our core. Miia and Lily also joined our Unit midway through the year, and Cameron, who moved from Victoria, joined us at the end of the year. Every one of our Rovers throughout the year have played a key role in our Unit.

With the increase in membership, it was time to complete our Den clean-up project that started in 2023. Emilia, Siobhan and Toby worked on this, with special help from our Group as well. The Yaralla Den is now a well-organised and functional space, complete with a quartermaster list and newly purchased cooking and pantry gear that had been long overdue.

No year in Rovers would be complete without significant contributions to volunteering and fundraising. Externally, our Unit supported the ANZAC Day marches and the Rover Plasma Drive.

Within the Scouting Movement, we participated in Dragon Skin 2024, with our members being part of both VOC 2 and activity bases. This was a major milestone, as we had typically been on VOC 2 in past years—so it was wonderful to see Siobhan help run a base with Turramurra Rovers.

We also continue to support the younger sections. Emilia serves as a Joey Leader at Yaralla Rovers, and Lily is a Cub Leader at 2nd/3rd Lindfield. Our annual Christmas Tree fundraiser was another success, and we've supported various Group fundraisers, including BBQs and assisting at the Concord Markets to help fundraise for Scouts attending Jamboree. Our Unit members also attended a variety of events throughout the year, including Moots, Bush Dance, bootings, and Claus for a Cause. We had strong representation at Mudbash, with Emilia stepping up as the Contingent Leader for NSW.

Unit nights were diverse and engaging, including activities like campfire cooking, bouldering, craft nights, paddling, board games, and go-karting. Additionally, Lily contributed to the Region Executive as the Adventurous Activities Co-ordinator, and Emilia as Secretary on the NSW Rover Council. As always a big thank you to our Rover Advisers Wendy and Sarah Berlecky for their continued support and guidance when we have been adapting to our increasing membership. To kick off 2025, we held our first Unit camp in a few years—Miia's Moot in Taree. We also had the privilege of awarding Erika the Baden-Powell Scout Award at Caves Beach.

Looking ahead, our goals for 2025 focus on further supporting Rovers with badge work to help them achieve their B-PSAs and raising funds for the 16th World Moot in Portugal. It's been a challenging but rewarding year, and we are excited to share more about our progress in the upcoming 2025 report!

Thank you for an amazing year!





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