

Sydney North Region Annual Report

1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026



Scouts
NSW



Scouts
NSW

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



As you will find as you read this Annual Report for Sydney North Region, 2025-26 has been another year of great Scouting activity throughout our Region. While for youth members and their parents the most important people in Scouting are the Leaders in their local Groups (and rightly so), this Report is also an opportunity to recognise and thank the Leaders and supporters at District and Region levels, whose largely behind-the-scenes work is all focussed on supporting the Groups and all the activities which our young people enjoy.

The past year has seen two significant changes at Region level:

- Dean Bassett decided to step back from his Region Commissioner role, and in January 2026 Richard Hughes-Narborough accepted appointment as our new Region Commissioner. Richard's involvement in Scouting extends over 30+ years, with experience as a Group Committee member, Venturer Leader, and most recently as Group Leader for one of the Region's most successful and active Groups. Our thanks go to Dean for his year of inspirational leadership of our Region, and we welcome Richard to this key role.
- State HQ decided to sell our Region office, and to relocate our office manager Donna Staff to the State office in Sydney Olympic Park. A very small proportion of the proceeds of the sale was allocated to the Region to allow the former 1st Roseville Scout Hall to be set up as an unstaffed office space for meetings, resource storage and support services such as photocopier/printer associated with supporting our Groups, who provide Scouting to about one third of the total State membership. Unfortunately a consequence of these changes was that Belinda Hose left us in October after years of service in the Region office, and our thanks and best wishes go out to her.

This President's Note is where I can particularly offer the sincere thanks of our community to:

- Our team of Region and District Commissioners for their enthusiastic and skilful support of our Groups and Activity Teams in their provision of high quality Scout Programs for our youth members
- Region Chair Philip Cooper, Treasurer Jimmy Zhang and the Region Executive Committee for continuing to ensure we have the financial, administrative and property resources to allow Scouting to thrive throughout the Region
- Region Support Officer Donna Staff for her continuing administrative support to Leaders and lay side supporters throughout the Region.

To all, Good Scouting for 2026-27

Dr Neil Mattes OAM
President - Sydney North Region



Chairman's Note

This year has once again been a year of great change for the operation of the Sydney North Region. Our HQ has been moved to Roseville in a Hall that was previously a Group Hall but needed some alteration and refurbishment. Part of this was financed by the State and the rest was performed by a small group of Leaders led by Phil Donald and Charles Turner. In addition, our admin function has been absorbed into the State Office.

Scout numbers for Sydney North Region have remained relatively stable this year, though with the change in the way numbers are captured, it is difficult to compare to previous years. Basically, we can see that about 80% of youth re-register after each "trek" and about 20% new members are recruited. The respective numbers for Leaders are approximately 90% and 10%. Whilst this shows a stabilisation, it clouds two problems. We have a number of Groups that fall below the numbers that allow for success operation and also, with the current numbers and fee structure, Scouts in our Region and NSW are not generating sufficient revenue to maintain the services we require.

This year we have a new Region Commissioner, Richard Hughes-Narborough who was previously Group Leader at 1st Hornsby Heights. Richard has put his considerable organisational skills into invigorating the operation of the Region. Richard has been ably assisted by Deputy Region Commissioners, Phil Donald and Charles Turner. I would like to thank this team for the effort they have put into the admin of the Region.

The Region Executive has also been well assisted by the Regional Treasurer Jimmy Zhang. I would also like to express my thanks to the other members of the Executive which included over this period, Region President Neil Mattes, Steve Tuffs, Robert Rodgers, Mitchell Rath, Mitchell Stubbs, Kacie Turner, Aaron Kew, Elyse Versace, Tamara Dudfield, Kim Loane and Greg Barr-Jones.

As was the case last year, the major matters of operation for the Committee have been a focus on operating expenses and maintenance of Region properties. This included much effort and attention being devoted to the operation, maintenance and future of Camp Ku-ring-gai, in order bring it up to a standard suitable for commercial hiring. As well, there has been an enormous effort put into bringing the Region HQ up to a reasonable standard. In the coming year the Executive will be faced with looking at how our Region can operate successfully in an environment where capital available from the State Organisation is considerably restricted.

Lastly and most importantly, I would like to thank all 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

A graphic featuring a stylized map of the Sydney North Region in light grey. Overlaid on the map is a blue silhouette of a person kayaking and another person on a bicycle. The title "Region Commissioner's Report" is written in large, bold, green letters with a black outline, centered over the map.

Region Commissioner's Report

Globally Scouting helps develop resilient, independent, self-fulfilled, values-based individuals who positively engage in society. This report and meeting are to inform you, the direct stakeholders of the Sydney North Region, and fulfil our obligations as a charitable entity, and give all our Region members a reminder of what they did last year and a brief look at what happens in the other Region Units and Districts.

I started in January 2026 and have taken time to understand how the Region is operating with a view to meeting the strategic plan for the next reporting year, 2026-7. Thank you to Dean Bassett and Kerry Griffin for fulfilling the Region Commissioner's role during 2025. Thanks go to all the District and Region Teams whose tireless efforts move us to better outcomes for Scouting. Thanks also to Belinda Hose, who has left the Region role, for considerable contribution at the Region Office.

I congratulate the many recipients throughout 2025-6 of the youth Scout Peak Awards, Adult Recognition Awards (ARA) and any other Scout badge or award. This demonstrates the consistent and valuable outcomes the Scouting program brings to our member youth and adults. B R A V O-O-O.

There has been a great deal of change within the Region including that of the disposal of the Region Office at Ellis Street, Chatswood and establishment of its replacement – now known as the Roseville Hub – located in Roseville Avenue, Roseville.

One of the critical roles in Scouting is that of Group Leader, inclusive of Leader-in-Charge (LIC). Following the 2025-6 reporting year and performance outcomes, the Region Team will be providing increased focus and support to ensure all Groups in the Region meet their compliance obligations and deliver Scouting to the highest standards with a view to keep Scouting exciting and relevant to the local communities.

There will continue to be changes and updates to the way we, as Scouting Leaders, operate in our current society. We must all remember to continue to engage in our activities with fun and enjoyment.

Richard Hughes-Narborough
Region Commissioner



Benowie District Report

While this was generally a strong year for Scouting in Benowie, it was also a year of highs and lows.

Dealing first with the lows, we had to put 1st East Wahrenga into recess because of the failure to convince any of the local community to commit to leadership training. Although my team and I remain convinced that there are sufficient youth in this (and also the 1st Waitara) area, we are re-thinking our approach to engagement with adults of prospective youth members. This is especially important given the changing demographics in the District, with many of eastern and southern Asian backgrounds who know very little about Scouting and the benefits they, as well as their children can gain from involvement.

Also, tragically, in August we had the loss of Stuart Leverton from 1st Hornsby Heights who passed away during a Venturer activity. Stuart was a passionate leader with more than 35 years' experience as an adult Leader in Scouts having held various Region, District, Rover and Scout Unit roles before joining the Venturer Unit earlier in the year.

Overall, Scouting has continued strongly in this part of the world, with the two strongest Groups (Normanhurst and 1st Hornsby Heights) having waiting lists for some sections (particularly Joey Scouts) and I am looking forward to resurgences especially at 1st Cherrybrook, 1st Mount Colah/ Mount Kuring-gai and 1st Berowra while 1st Asquith, 2nd/3rd Pennant Hills and West Pennant Hills have remained steady.

Hornsby Gang Show joined the District this year and once more gave particularly strong performances – seeming to go from success to success.

As always, our youth members are getting out and about, both with Scout organised activities (Sirius Cup, District and Region Camps, ScoutHike and Dragon Skin) as well as the activities which their local Units organise and events such as Anzac Day.

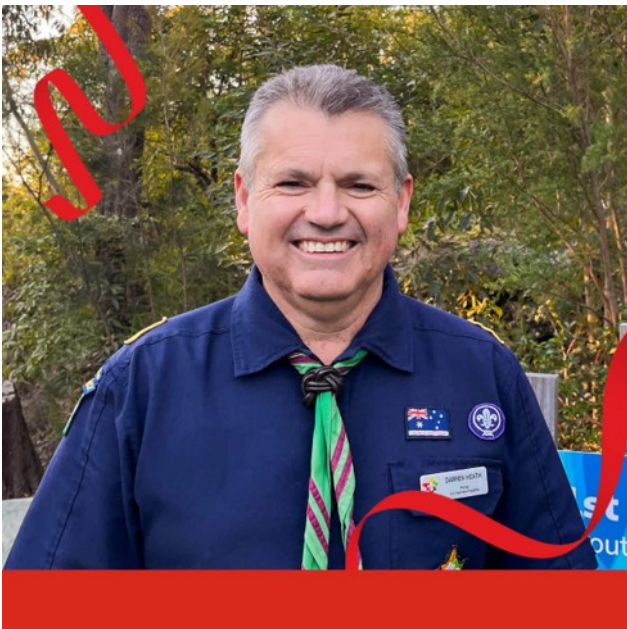
I remain inspired by the imagination and dedication of the many volunteer leaders who put so much of their time into providing those fun and challenging learning experiences for our young people. While not wanting to single any out, I must mention Darren Heath of 1st Hornsby Heights, who was voted Hornsby Westfield Local Hero and awarded a \$20,000 grant for his Group.

I am extremely grateful for the support of my District Team: Lindy Muir (who manages to organise great District activities together with a vibrant program at 1st Hornsby Heights); Michelle Dalmaris who is thriving in her role as District Scout Leader (with her enthusiasm seeming spark a similar enthusiasm many of the Scout section leaders); and Alan Todd who has assisted in several roles. It has also been wonderful to have two new members join the District Team: Steph Spackman as District Cub Scout Leader and Dave "Crispy" Antrim as assistant District Scout section Leader. Thanks too to the support from Donna and, until she left, Belinda.

Finally, we wish to thank Motorserve Hornsby who have provided their premises for a monthly carwash opportunity which is being shared around the Groups and Rover Units and especially Hornsby RSL and Wahroonga Rotary Club which have provided us with funds so that our Scout Section could continue to hold the traditional (over 50 years) Easter Camp at Crosslands in the face of significant increases in Council fees for using that facility.

Robert Rodgers

District Commissioner - Benowie



Darren Heath—Local Hero



Stuart Leverton – Gone Home



The title 'Garigal District Report' is written in a large, bold, green font with a black outline. It is centered over a stylized background of a mountain range in shades of grey and blue, with a small silhouette of a person climbing a rock face.

Garigal District Report

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2026 Report for the Garigal District.

The 2025 calendar year saw us all enjoy Scouting in and out of the hall.

Over the 12 months, I saw Units of all sizes, out and about, enjoying everything Scouting has to offer. The number of activities available to our members outside the hall is endless. I've heard the stories about our Youth Members and adults bushwalking, abseiling, caving, sailing, flying, 4WDing, climbing, canoeing, skiing, surfing, cycling, shooting, on the flying fox, camping and more. Inside the hall - there's so much to do - rope work, cooking, concerts, badgework, Patrol-based games and craft.

Local District events included Founders Day swimming and hiking, District Cub camps at Camp Ku-ring-gai, Scout Camps at Cataract, Joey Out and About Days, Joey Camps at East Wahroonga and a couple of Northern Beaches wide Venturer events.

Congratulations to those Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers who achieved their peak awards.

BRAVOOO to the Leaders who received recognition awards and thank you also to those who celebrated milestones of service.

Thank you to all the Leaders, Adult Helpers, parents, carers, helpers and supporters who have 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, Lynne and Ed - thanks for your support.

As to the future, we're not just recruiting members. We're igniting futures.

Every new Scout who walks through the door of a Hall isn't just signing up for camping or badges. They're stepping into a community that teaches resilience, leadership, and service. They're finding Leaders who believe in them, fellow Scouts who challenge them, and experiences that will shape their character for life.

And here's the truth: they won't find this anywhere else.

Let's remember: every flyer handed out, every school visited, every conversation with a parent – it's a spark. And when we light enough sparks, we build a fire that warms entire generations.

Let's grow Scouting like never before. Because the future is waiting – and the best of our future are wearing a scarf!

In closing, I hope you'll continue to have fun and enjoy Scouting to the fullest.

Tom Miles
District Commissioner - Garigal

Ku-ring-gai District Report

In 2025 we farewelled Geoff Vaughan, our DC of the last 5 years. Geoff has also been involved in several Groups in the District over many years as a Unit leader or an acting Group Leader. It is dedication like this that picks our struggling Groups back up and sees them flourishing again. Geoff continues as a Venturer leader at 2nd Gordon. I have stepped in as acting District Commissioner and continued with the various District meetings.

In 2025 we reviewed the viability of 1st Gordon, as it had struggled with maintaining Leaders and members. After a through examination of the hall, the surrounds and the ability of the Region to keep it going it was decided to close the Group. With West Pymble and 2nd Gordon not too far away, there is still good opportunities for Scouting.

1st Pymble are busily building up their membership from a solid base of twenty one Cubs. With their promotions planned for each term and community invitations there will be a steady in growth in the Group

1st North Turramurra has decided to restart the Joeys and then build to Cubs and Scouts. Julie and Robert have good connections to the local schools and communities and will give the Group a strong base. In order to give them more support the Group has moved from the Ku Ring Gai District to Benowie.

The 1st Turramurra Group, lead by Denise Temisgian and Julie Commins have a great range of activities for their Units and they also manage the Anzac services at Wahroonga Park and Turramurra Memorial Park. The volunteers do an outstanding job remembering and supporting the veterans and proudly representing Scouts NSW.

2nd Turramurra with one hundred and ten members is well placed to deliver exciting Scouting. Their programs and leader involvement give the youth members all the adventures they could want.

North St Ives, 2nd Gordon and West Pymble all have solid programs and plans for the rest of the year.

2nd St Ives has committed to rebuilding the Group with the able leadership of David Kinchington. This will take some time but will be well worth it for the local youth. They are ably assisted by the other Groups in the District.

Region and District events such as ScoutHike, Dragon Skin, Roventure, Sirius Cup and various District camps have been well attended by Youth and adult members alike. Congratulations to all the Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers who attained their Peak Awards over the past twelve months. These are achievements that will be remembered throughout their lives.

On behalf of the Ku-ring-gai District I would like to thank the Leaders and Adult support members who step up for weekly meetings, Group meetings and weekends to support the Youth Members in all their endeavours.

These Leaders in turn are supported by Regional and State teams in activities including Bushwalking, Rockcraft, Snowcraft, Water based activities, Gang Show and more, all adding to the comprehensive opportunities for learning and adventure.

Phil Donald
Acting District Commissioner - Ku-ring-gai

The title 'Lower North Shore District Report' is written in a large, bold, green font with a black outline. It is set against a background of a blue and white watercolor-style splash. In the background of the splash, there is a silhouette of a person swimming in the water.

Lower North Shore District Report

Firstly, a big thankyou to all our fantastic Leaders at 1st Balmoral, Cammeray, 1st Clifton Gardens, 1st Greenwich, 1st North Sydney, 1st Northbridge, 1st Mosman, 1st Sailors Bay, 1st Willoughby and 2nd Willoughby who do so much to provide Scouting to the Youth Members in Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers within our District. 3rd Mosman Bay is still in recess.

Many Leaders also enthusiastically participate in a wide range of District, Region, State and National activities. Scouting in the Lower North Shore is also fortunate to have many on our Group Support Committees who with our Leaders freely give their time, effort, skills and active involvement to bring the benefits of Scouting to our Youth membership – we greatly appreciate all you do. I also acknowledge and thank our District Seeonee and Mindari Leaders, Connie Wan and Matthew Brownlie for their significant contributions to Scouting in these roles that are over and above their roles in their respective Groups.

Over the last year, Lower North Shore Groups also attend and actively support larger events including District Camps, Sirius Cup, Dragon Skin and ScoutHike.

March found many Groups either camping for the weekend or day tripping to Balmoral Beach for Sirius Cup. As usual, Saturday morning saw the Scout canoe events with sailing in the afternoon. Sunday began with the Iron Man events for all ages followed by the Cub canoe events. Sirius Cup was again very successful with thanks to all volunteers who helped deliver the event for our Scouts. Special thanks to Matthew Brownlie for his considerable assistance to me with the set up for the canoe events and his role over many years as the race starter.

Growing numbers of Lower North Shore Venturers and Leaders had a great time participating at Dragon Skin.

There was strong District support for one of our Region's premier events, the annual first weekend in May pilgrimage to a State Forest for ScoutHike. Many Scouts enjoyed camping at the sleep points, catching up with friends and participating at the many and varied activity bases. The creativity and resourcefulness of the Leader teams in setting up marvellous activity bases in forest is amazing. Many other Leaders did a sterling job helping in various capacities including some on the Forest HQ team and Matthews Brownlie's team running Sleep Point 2.

In addition to the above, the District Groups also actively participated in successful Group and District events/activities including Anzac Day Ceremonies, Group Camps, District Camps, Sailing and Canoe training, Youth Leadership Courses, Adult training Courses for Leaders and Supporters, Group revenue raising activities such as Fertiliser Drives and Christmas Tree sales.

District Cubs are looking forward to the upcoming ACT Cuboree in October 2026 and the NSW Cuboree in 2027. District Scouts are looking forward to AJ2028 that will be held in Elmore Victoria.

Group membership numbers vary across the District and while some Groups like 1st Willoughby are going very well with about a hundred Youth members others are developing recruitment plans to rebuild both Leader and Youth numbers.

While doing the above and more, the Groups continued to run their many and varied regular weekly programs for our Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers.

Steve Tufts
District Commissioner – Lower North Shore

Moocooboolah District Report

Joey numbers in Moocooboolah remain stable, six active Units, Beecroft, Epping, East Ryde, North Ryde, Meadowbank and Roselea. Grateful to Lyn Mann for continuing the DJSL role with her other Scouting duties.

Cub numbers up a little, we still need someone for DCSL, the role has now been vacant for 18 months. Thanks to Cassie Donald for some assistance with various Region and State Cub activities.

Lynda Calder, Group Leader at Brush Park has been working overtime helping the Scout Section in the District, whilst our District Scout Leaders have been occupied with work and family commitments, thank you Lynda! A great turnout at ScoutHike, good turnout at District camp in June, and unfortunate that State rally was cancelled due to property issues. Again, thanks due to Leasa Clark, Scout Leader at Ryde, for supporting the Units of Meadowbank and Putney.

Venturers have again slightly increased numbers. Ten years ago we had only three Venturer Units. Brush Park going strong, Thanks to Roland Simpson for his efforts there, Eastwood Marsfield strong too. Maddison Domanko has taken on the District Venturer Scout Leader role, whilst continuing to lead the Epping Unit, and supporting Roselea and mentoring the fledgling Ryde Venturer Unit, Drew "Strider" Sneddon driving the startup of that Unit. Beecroft, East Ryde and Putney in the mix too.

Camp Windeyer bookings have picked up a little, but still not up to pre-Covid numbers, the western toilets were installed in October, new pontoons and gangways hopefully this year. I am assisted by deputy wardens Barbara Fenwick, Girl Guide Leader Jen McMahon, Paul Dadd and Neil Carey. Please utilize the site. If it doesn't make money it wont be kept. For patrols hiking on the Great North Walk we can pick them up from Crosslands Reserve, and have them camp in a safer environment, and keep the fees in Scouting, rather than the local Council.

Cameron Jessep
District Commissioner - Moocooboolah
Camp Warden - Camp Windeyer





Northern Beaches District Report

2025 settled down to some Serious Scouting after the registration period in May. This was a time when 25 percent of members opted for other activities. Over the following months the Groups gradually picked up new members who were introduced to the wide variety of Scouting. Joeys and Cubs bought their many friends and this was a section that attracted the majority of new members.

Highlights included:

- Canoeing days run by the Northern Beaches Water Activities Team
- Indoor rock climbing at local venues
- Bushwalking in the local National Parks
- Camping at The Basin Pittwater

These activities not only kept members active and learning but also created valuable first memories of the outdoors.

The District Joeys were out and about with their Units and overseen by our Region Commissioner. Thanks to Jim Baldwin and the Joey leaders for all your time and effort with the events.

My thanks to Barbara Harrison and the Seeonee team for their inspiration to organise the Units to meet together and for organising the District and Region events. These events give the Cubs some exciting adventures.

Camping for Scouts plays a key role in leadership development, with patrols learning essential skills in planning, food preparation, camp setup, and activity coordination. The impact of experienced Patrol Leaders was especially evident, boosting the overall morale and confidence of the Units. My thanks to Tom Miles, Colin Turner and their Mindari team for organising all the extra activities and for their leadership and guidance. The Scouts were involved in District activities, volunteer days, Jamboree of the Air JOTA and ScoutHike.

Our Venturer Units teamed up with each other to get a critical mass and meet many new friends. My thanks to Ed Sawkins for taking on the District role and bringing the Leaders and Units together. The Venturers were involved in Dragon Skin & Roventure. They also played a key role in supporting younger Scouts during Scouthike and JOTA-JOTI, passing on their knowledge and reinforcing the Scouting values.

We were proud to see many of our dedicated Leaders formally acknowledged in the annual awards for their service to Scouting. The hundreds of hours they contribute to planning, programming, and mentoring make a profound impact. Their commitment ensures our young members are equipped with skills and experiences that last a lifetime.

On behalf of the Northern Beaches District, I extend my thanks to all our Leaders, parents, and the Region team for their tireless volunteer work during weekly meetings, weekend camps, and major Scouting events. Also, thanks to our local Councils, State and Federal Government representatives, and the business community for their generous support through sponsorships, donations and ongoing encouragement.

Your contributions embody the true spirit of Scouting and ensure its continued success for generations to come.

Phil Donald
District Commissioner - Northern Beaches

Turrumburra District Report

Turrumburra Region has enjoyed a busy and positive year, with strong participation across a wide range of Scouting activities and continued collaboration between Groups and Leaders. A major highlight was the January 2025 Australian Jamboree in Maryborough, where many local Groups were represented. Feedback from youth members was overwhelmingly positive, with participants enjoying the variety of activities, new challenges and opportunities to build friendships across Scouting.

Regional and District events were also well supported throughout the year. The Sirius Cup at Balmoral in March was strongly attended, and the ScoutHike in May provided another valuable opportunity for adventure, teamwork and skill development. The District Scout Camp at Bengalee was another successful event, with seven of twenty one Groups attending from Groups across the combined Turrumburra/LNS District.

A real strength of Turrumburra Region continues to be the collegiality between leaders and Groups, both within the Region and more broadly across the Lower North Shore. Leaders have generously shared ideas and program resources, and there have been a number of combined activity nights that have strengthened connections and broadened opportunities for young people.

Turrumburra Region also contributed strongly to the wider Region program. At the Region Fun Day for Cubs in June 2025, more than 200 Cubs attended, with Turrumburra and Lower North Shore providing three activity bases. ScoutHike remains a firm favourite for the Scout Section, and Dragon Skin for the Venturer Section. Both were extremely well attended by youth from the District. Groups have also been active in their local communities and beyond, with youth members taking part in excursions and experiences such as visits to the SES and wheelchair basketball, helping to build community awareness, confidence and inclusion.

District Council has continued to meet regularly as a combined forum with Lower North Shore, with each meeting including a learning component to support Leader development. Topics in 2025 included Committee Descriptions, ScoutHub, presented by Phil Donald, and Adult Leader Training, presented by Cassie Donald. The District has also celebrated leadership milestones during the year, including Nathan Shelton's appointment as Regional Commissioner for Cubs and Connie Wan stepping into the role of District Cub Leader. In addition, Roseville generously handed over the Martin Lane Scout Hall to become the Region Office, providing an important shared base for the future. While attracting new leaders remains an ongoing challenge across the Region, the year has demonstrated the strength, resilience and enthusiasm of Turrumburra's volunteers and young people, and the Region is well placed to continue building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Belinda Butcher
District Commissioner - Turrumburra



Activities Report

Another busy year of activities has finished and it is worth reflection on our achievements over the past few years. As a result of the wonderful work of the team, we now have:

Approximately 40 Adventurous Activities Guides covering, bushwalking, canoeing, white water canoeing, sailing, fishing, abseiling, canyoning, caving, rock climbing, snorkelling, flying fox, road cycling, off road cycling, aquatics, archery, pioneering, 4WD, powerboating.

Approximately 25 Trainee Adventurous Activity Guides

Approximately 164 Trained Participant qualified people mostly in bushwalking, paddling, basic water rescue and cycling.

It is important for all of our adult Leaders to gain activity qualifications at either Safe Participant or Trained Participant in the core areas of Bushwalking, Canoeing, Swimming and Cycling. Congratulations to all of those people who have completed training and paperwork to attain their activity skills qualifications.

The Sydney North Region Activities Team have run a range of activities during the last twelve months which have included Abseiling, Canyoning, Caving, Rock Climbing, Bushwalking, Paddling, Cross Country Ski-ing. Our Region activity guides, trainee guides and our trained participants have:

Providing over 39 individual activities and training opportunities within Sydney North Region.

Providing over 4900 person days of adventurous activities for Scouts NSW members.

Supported other Regions with the provision of a number of different activities which provided over 3800 person days of adventurous activities.

Assisted many of our Groups run vertical activities including abseiling, sox wrestling, aerial soccer, climbing.

Assisted numerous youth with planning, preparation, and review of their adventurous journey's.

Thank you to all the activity team members who have assisted in the provision of the huge activity program offered to our members. Without these wonderful volunteers we would not be able to provide the thousands of hours of activities to our youth members. A further big thanks to our Activity Guides who have assisted with the training and qualification of many of our leaders of youth across a range of skill areas.



Incidents in Adventurous Activities

It is important that all accidents and near misses are reported to Scouts NSW. Near misses reporting is important to report so we can learn before we have an actual accident.

Thus over the last twelve months the State Activities Team has built some reporting tools so that we can capture and analyse accident and incident data. It is worth noting that the reports have shown that we are a remarkable safe organisation with an incident density of 1.57 incidents per 1000 activity days. This is below the industry average of 4.6 incidents per 1000 activity days.

Cycling is our riskiest activity with an incident density of 5.95. This is probably because the participant has full control of speed, direction and braking. If you are running cycling activities, please look at how to keep the participants in control and accident free.

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 Leaders.

We encourage all adults to achieve a bushwalking qualification. 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. Along with our basic Safe Participant Course we also running Rigging and Rescue course for members wishing to move to Guide level in Abseiling.



The Region runs approximately seven abseiling days a year at Lindfield Rocks. Each of these has three sessions, two for Scouts and one for Cub Scouts. Roland Simpson 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.

Caving:

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. Our Region activity weekends have been booked out over the last 12 months so you need to get in early to book a spot. It's always a fun adventure getting down and dirty exploring underground and again join one of our trips to build your skills or work towards getting qualified.

Canyoning:

Canyon has quickly grown to be one of Regions most popular activities. We have had over one hundred and fifty participants attend our Region canyon adventure weekends over the last year. With our Region vertical skills development program along with a number of our Region Canyon Guides getting out on adventures in Kanagra Boyd National Park.

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:

Thomas Judge took on the role of Climbing Co-ordinator and with the assistance of Mark Lim has run basic rock-climbing skill weekends and skill days in the Blue Mountains and other environs.

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 ran the flying fox for the Region Cub Scout Camp at Camp Ku-ring-gai. The team has also assisted the South Coast team with a number of events.

We are always on the hunt for more people to assist us so if you are interest get in touch with the Region Commissioner Activities Wesley Leverton.



First-Aid:

The Regions First Aid Team has provided a range of opportunities for our youth and leaders to gain first aid training and qualifications. They commenced running First Aid nights as part of our youth night programs. These have proved extremely popular and have been subscribed to.

The team has joined up with Royal Life Saving NSW to provide first aid training and our courses have had plenty of participants. 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:

The Region held a basic XCD weekend in July and XCD camping weekend in August. There was also the State Alpine School in July as well.

See the Sydney North Region website for more information.



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





Wood Badge Roll of Honour

1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

Maisie Leung	1st Cherrybrook Cub Unit 'Callicoma'
Choong Han Sai	1st Cherrybrook Joey Unit
Patricia Marshall	1st Asquith Scout Unit
Alice Martin	1st North Sydney Cub Unit
Oliver Roths	Cammeray Cub Unit
Musette Healey	Normanhurst Scout Group
Kevin Bryant	Fairlight/Manly Scout Unit
Sean Blasdall	1st Elanora Heights Scout Group
Robert Sewell	Epping Scout Group
Andrew Introna	1st Berowra Scout Group
Alfredo Rodriguez Mendez	1st Berowra Scout Unit 'Turi'
Patrick Dunstan	West Pymble Scout Unit
Emma Vozzo	1st Allambie Heights Scout Unit

Diversity & Inclusion Report

Since Scouting has transitioned away from Specific Groups for youth with disabilities and support needs, Scout Groups are including a diversity of youth members supported by very committed volunteer Leaders. Inclusive Scouting welcomes young people with disabilities, neurodiversity, unusual behaviours, sensory challenges, cultural diversity and gender diversity.

Embracing diversity and inclusion requires good teamwork and preparation, appropriate training, and mentoring from experienced Leaders. Leader vacancies and considerable Mandatory Training requirements can place a heavy burden on Leaders and Scout Groups where there are a high proportion of youth members with a range of support needs.

Sydney North Region is well-resourced with experienced leaders at both District and Regional levels to provide information and support to Groups in such matters as:

- Clarification on policy.
- Accessibility, especially for out of hall activities and at events.
- Providing equipment such as mobility aids and sensory kits.
- Making reasonable adjustments to programs and Award Scheme where required.
- Providing information, consultations and resourcing regarding specific disabilities or diversities.
- Addressing bullying or other behaviour issues.
- Providing Mental health support, information or referral.
- Offering specific training.

Among Scouting's many strengths is providing hands-on programs to young people in a variety of settings. This was difficult to maintain with online meetings during Covid, and we lost many members as a result. However, Sydney North All Abilities Scout Group continues to have many of its weekly meetings online to meet the accessibility needs of its members with disabilities, and to reduce the need for both members and leaders to travel long distances at night. Face to face daytime meetings and excursions are held twice per term.

The next training opportunity is a Diversity and Inclusion Training conference being held at Bundilla from 28th -30th August.

Beth Mitchell
Regional Commissioner - Diversity and Inclusion





Issues Management Report

Introduction

This is the 5th year that Tasman McManis RC Issues Management and Viv Waddingham Professor of Clinical Psychology and Berowra Venturer Leader have had responsibility for handling people issues in Sydney North.

I would like to thank Viv for her assistance and support during the past fourteen months especially during my time overseas in September/October 2025 when Viv was called on to handle several issues. Also, a big thank you to Elyse Versace Regional Commissioner Rovers for her assistance with investigating Sydney North Rover issues. Again, it is pleasing to report that the team has only handled a small number of issues in Sydney North over this period.

It is also important to thank the State Office and the new team of Hayat Farhat and Fiona Baker for their help in supplying information about a range of issues associated with Regions other than Sydney North. The Sydney North Issues Management team has assisted the State Office over that last year, investigating at least ten issues in Regions other than Sydney North, providing input as an independent third party.

Issues Covered in the Period

During the reporting period the Issues Management team has continue to handle issues mostly encapsulated by the following four issue types:

- Parents feeling that their child has been treated unfairly by leaders.
- Conflict resolution
- Group mediation.
- Inappropriate behaviour amongst Rovers

Approach to Issues Management

The approach adopted by 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.

Conclusion & Recommendations

We are noticing that there are some trends emerging in the issues we are investigating.

- Friction between Leaders who have been in Scouts for 20+ years and newer Leaders. It can be generational with the longer-term Leaders failing to respond to changes in the way Scouting is delivered and the new systems being put in place. Younger Leaders are versed in the new systems and programs and are keen to put them into practice.
- Younger Leaders are more likely to submit a complaint and not try and address the issue directly with the person who caused the issue. There is also scope for issues within a Group to be addressed by the Group Leader in the first instance.
- We continue to see problems arise between youth members with behavioural difficulties and leaders with limited or no experience in how to approach youth members with these issues. Additional training for leaders is required in this area.

Some suggestions that might help improve the handling of issues when they arise could include:

- Leader and Rovers are provided with more information about what to do when they have a complaint. This could be communicated in several ways including:
 - Email to all Leaders and Rovers, probably sent out from Group Leaders
 - On the website where people go to lodge the complaint - list the steps to be taken as the first step - e.g. Talk to your Group Leader first and only lodge a complaint form if you think the issue has not been resolved.
 - Introduction Packs to Parents (or the like) to better inform parents regarding the expectations.

That is, that Leaders are volunteers and that parents will be required to support parents to ensure the youth member does well in Scouting. This includes supporting Leaders with the management of behavioural issues related to youth members.

For many issues, the introduction of a “cooling off period” followed by an apology will often resolve the issue and reduce the likelihood of any escalation. This not possible if the people involved don’t understand their obligations when joining Scouting and they don’t meet and talk to each other.

We continue to recommend 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.

Tasman McManis

Regional Commissioner - Issues Management



Adult Training and Development Report

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Leader Trainers and Assistant Leader Trainers from the State Training Team and the Sydney North Region. Their dedication, expertise, and ongoing commitment to the cause of training in Scouting are truly invaluable.

The time and effort they generously give, often on a voluntary basis, demonstrate a deep passion for developing leaders and supporting the growth of our movement. Without their selfless contribution of knowledge, experience, and energy, the delivery of quality training programmes would simply not be possible.

I am also pleased to recognise that 11 leaders obtained their Wood Badge during the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. This is a significant achievement that reflects dedication, perseverance, and a strong commitment to personal development within Scouting. Congratulations to all recipients - well done.

Their commitment ensures that leaders are well-equipped with the skills, confidence, and understanding needed to provide meaningful and enriching experiences for young people in Scouting. This acknowledgment recognises not only their hard work but also their lasting impact on the strength and success of our training initiatives.

Cassie Donald

Regional Commissioner - Adult Training & Development

Joey Section Report



The year saw the commencement of two new Joey Scout Units – 1st Cammeray and 1st Balmoral – and the resumption of two other Joey Scout Units – 1st Brush Park and Cromer-Dee Why. The Balmoral and Cammeray Units run in conjunction with weekly Cub meetings; Brush Park goes ahead gangbusters while Cromer-Dee Why is struggling with only three Joeys resuming in Feb 2026. Several Units are actively seeking new recruits. In Northern Beaches District, commUnity campfire nights have been trialed with mixed success at 1st/2nd Harbord, Brookvale Curl Curl and Cromer-Dee Why. The number of Joey Scouts in Sydney North Region peaked at 350+.

Region activities included :

Paddling Skills sessions in April and November: the North Harbour Scout Water Base (NHSWB) team instructs the Joey Scouts in basic paddling and water safety skills and supervises the Joeys on the Water during a one hour paddling tour of Narrabeen Lake. The objective is for Joey Scouts to earn the Stage 1 Paddling Skills badge.

Initially three x two hour sessions were planned for each day, however, the number of applicants was disappointing resulting in only one session in April and two sessions in November. Discussions with the NHSWB team, who deliver the program, resulted in cancellation of April session in 2026 and offering only two morning sessions in November 2026.

'Joeys Go Bush' Fun Day on 2 June 2025: 106 Joeys attended at St Ives Showground and participated in a number of activity bases associated the Bushcraft. The Region First Aid team ran a base, taking the opportunity to develop a program they have now offered for weekly Joey Scout meetings. Other bases were Leaf man art, Emergency Blanket uses, Boating, Birdwatching and a Bush Tucker Walk.

The Joey Pirate Camp was held at North Turramurra Sat 25 - Sun 26 October We had thirty one Joeys and one Cub camping overnight. Fourteen Leader supervised activities, including three District Commissioners. Joeys had to dress the part - making pirate hats and eye patches. They also had to manufacture their own cannons (paper cups & balloons with ping pong balls for cannon shot). Joeys also mixed their magic potions. Sunday was time for the Treasure Hunt and sharing the booty. Sad to say, the Joey pirates all mutinied and the captain (Regional Commissioner Joey Scouts) was left with nothing.

Joey Scouts in the Western Pouch (Benowie & Ku-ring-gai Districts) enjoyed the following additional activities:

Campfire in August with fifty five Joeys, twenty five leaders and about one hundred parents/siblings.

Hoporee in March 2026 – camping at Camp Ku-ring-gai was attended by sixty seven Joeys, including twenty from the ACT, forty two Leaders and 18 Adult Helpers. Joeys experienced:

- Archeology - Digging for Dinosaurs and Ancient Egyptian Art

- Archery

- Environment/ Better World - the Moving Earth and Building the Future.

Saturday night the Joeys demonstrated their campfire abilities, acquired in August. They even had time (Sunday) for Scouts Own and a bushwalk.

Jim Baldwin
Regional Commissioner - Joeys

Cub Section Report



The Cub Units in Sydney North Region have had an action-packed year filled with fun and exciting activities! It's fantastic to see our Youth Members staying active and engaged through a wide variety of indoor and outdoor experiences. From bike rides and bushwalks to science nights, Founders Day and Halloween celebrations, the Cubs have been learning, exploring, and having a blast every step of the way.

Many Cub Units also took part in camps like the Sirius Cup, where they enjoyed unforgettable moments and built lasting friendships. Campfires brought everyone together for stories and songs under the stars, while canoeing offered a thrilling way to build confidence and enjoy the great outdoors.

We're also proud to celebrate the achievements of our dedicated Youth Members. It's inspiring to see so many being recognised for their hard work and commitment to Scouting. These awards reflect the passion and perseverance that make our community so strong.

In June, the Cub Section hosted an exciting Region Fun day at Ryde East Public School that brought together Youth Members from across the Region. The day was filled with hands-on activities designed to build confidence and teamwork whilst having fun. Cubs participated in some great activities such as First Aid, Billy Cart Soccer, Remote Control Car Racing, Orienteering, puzzle games and creating dream catchers to ensure they all slept well when they got home.

October saw over 308 Cubs, 97 leaders and 42 Adult Helpers from the Region come together at Camp Ku-ring-gai for Region Camp. Cubs participated in high energy bases such as Laser Tag, Archery, Rock Climbing and Flying Fox. They also Scouted around the campfire making damper, made code wheels, went on a scavenger hunt and even formed a search party complete with radio contact to home base to find a leader that was "lost" in the bush.

Between April 2025 and May 2026 the Sydney North Region Cub Section supported 130 Youth Members through Personal Development Courses designed to challenge and grow their leadership skills. This investment in our future Leaders is a testament to the strength and vision of our program.

To all the Cubs that received their Grey Wolf over the past year, we send a big B-R-A-V-O to you. Well done on this achievement, the skills and knowledge that you have gained in earning this award will set you up for a great experience in Scouting and community.

Congratulations to all the award recipients named on World Scout Day 2025! Your contributions are deeply appreciated and make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people. Here's to continued success, growth, and adventure in the world of Scouting! A big thank you to our amazing Cub Leaders!

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the Cub Leaders for an incredible year. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and creativity have given our Youth Members the chance to experience fun, adventure, and personal growth. From exciting activities to skill-building challenges, you've made a lasting impact—and we truly appreciate everything you do! Thank you for your time, energy, and unwavering support. Here's to another great year ahead!

Lastly, I would like to give a B-R-A-V-O and thank you to Cassie who in her time as Regional Commissioner Cubs made a huge contribution to Cubs all through the Region and left some big hiking boots to fill.

I wish her all the very best in her new Region role and look forward to carrying on the great work that Cassie has done.

Nathan Shelton and Cassie Donald
Regional Commissioner - Cubs

Scout Section Report



The Sydney North Region Scout Section continues to set the standard for excellence in Scouting across Australia. Our Units have thrived at the local level, with vibrant weekly meetings and adventurous weekend camps forming the heartbeat of our program. This year brought fresh challenges and exciting changes, and our Leaders responded with creativity, resilience and passion. It has been inspiring to watch teams adapt, innovate and evolve, ensuring Scouting remains dynamic, relevant and engaging for every young person involved. Our District Leaders once again went above and beyond, providing invaluable support and guidance to our dedicated Leaders across the Region.

ScoutHike 2026

Scouthike 2026 – **Generational Adventure** transformed Belanglo State Forest into the ultimate offline playground, uniting Scouts, Leaders, Rovers and Venturers from across NSW for a weekend where every generation hit “upgrade.” With around 800 Scouts and 570 supporters, including 170 Venturers and 50 Rovers, the event became a real-life multi-generational Group chat that actually worked, and nobody muted.

Patrols powered through the forest tackling more than 30 imaginative activity bases, each designed to level up skills, build confidence and unlock new achievements, no downloads required. This year’s bases celebrated the theme of “generations” with nostalgic, pop-culture-rich creativity:

- **Russell Coight** bringing peak Aussie chaos
- **Pac-Man IRL** proving retro gaming still slaps
- **VHS Rewind** reminding everyone that buffering used to be physical
- **Scouts Day Off** channeling Ferris Bueller energy
- **K-Pop demon hunting, apocalyptic fashion shows**, and more

The atmosphere all weekend was electric. Scouts navigated like pros, solved problems on the fly, and built real-world skills that won’t disappear when they log off. From the first base to the final finish point, the forest buzzed with teamwork, resilience and joy, the ultimate antidote to screen time.

Six Sleep Points dotted throughout Belanglo offered their own unique vibe, from themed setups to cozy, efficient camps. Every night, Scouts arrived to a warm welcome, a safe place to recharge, and a leadership team ready to support them. Scouthike remains the biggest lightweight hiking event in NSW and the largest annual youth event run by Sydney North Region, a true celebration of **Generation Outdoors**.

In first place was *Guess We’re Camping Here* from 1st Tambourine Bay, second place *Seal Team 7* from 1st Turramurra and third *The Woggle Wanderers* from Cammeray

These patrols earned top honours through teamwork, determination and consistently strong performance across the weekend’s bases — proving that no matter your generation, effort always trends.

As buses rolled out on Sunday and Belanglo returned to its misty calm, Scouts left tired but smiling, packs a little lighter, friendships a little stronger, and memories that will last long after the final badge is sewn on. Scouthike 2026 wasn’t just a hike — it was a celebration of generations past, present and future coming together to learn, grow and adventure.

ScoutHike 2027 will be held **30 April – 2 May 2027**, with early-bird registrations opening **1 February 2027**.

Training, Awards and Regional Highlights

Sydney North continues to lead the way in Basic Scout Training, running six courses and training over 120 Scouts, an incredible effort by our District teams. Our calendar was packed with highlights including District Camps, JOTA-JOTI, Canoeing and Swimming Carnivals, Link Camps, Pioneering Camps and Scout Leadership Training. These events, supported by our amazing Leaders, added depth, challenge and excitement to the Scouting journey.

We are also thrilled to celebrate 51 Australian Scout Awards presented this year, a remarkable achievement. These peak awards reflect the dedication, perseverance and growth of our Scouts, and the unwavering support of their Leaders, families and fellow Scouts. Each award is a testament to the strength of our program and the incredible young people we are proud to support.

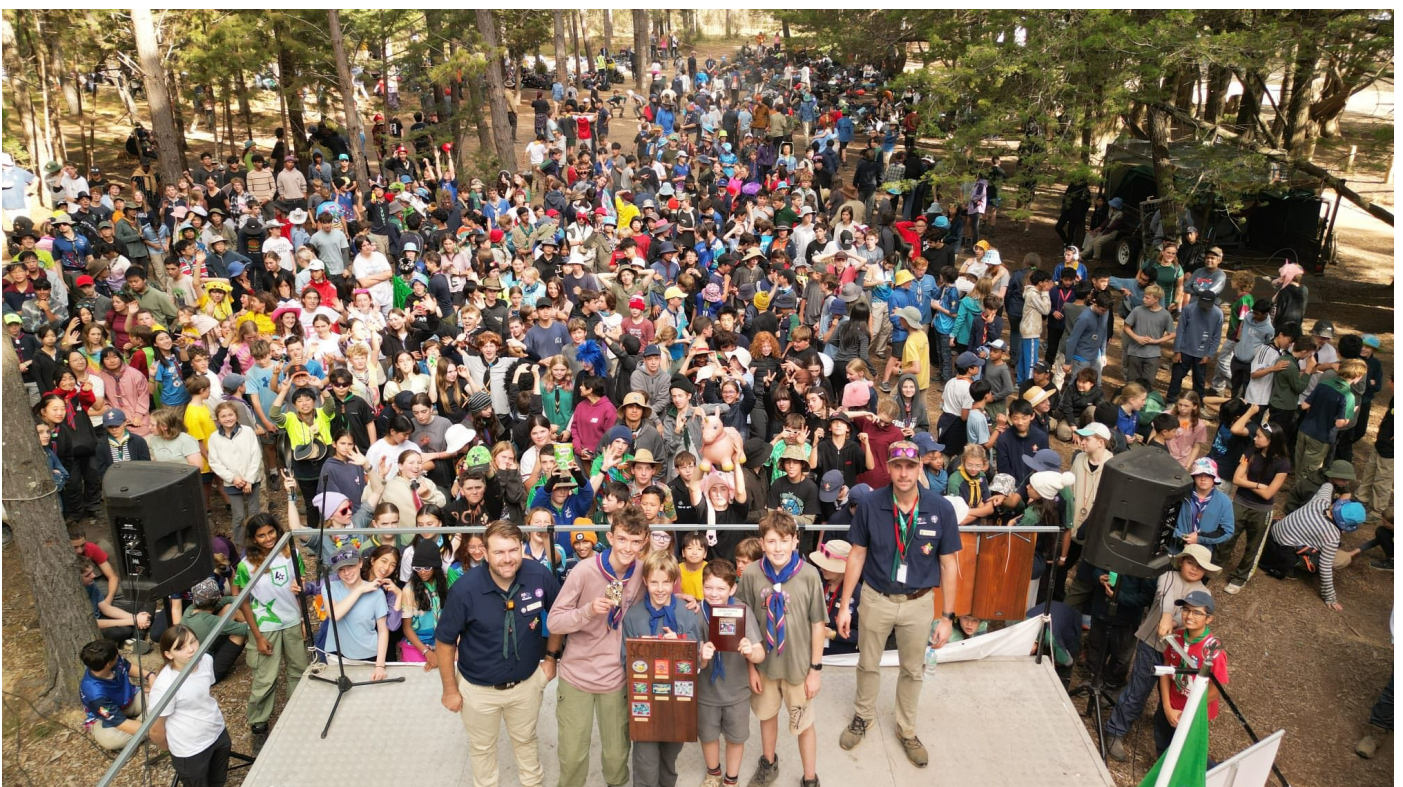
Thank You

To every Leader, helper and supporter, thank you!! Your energy, commitment and passion are what make Sydney North such a powerhouse in the Scouting world. Whether you're running a local Unit night, leading a hike, designing an activity base or mentoring a Scout through their award journey, your impact is immeasurable.

Let's keep the momentum going and continue to inspire the next generation of Leaders and adVenturers.

Here's to another outstanding year of Scouting.

Mitchell Rath
Regional Commissioner - Scouts
Scouthike 2026 Co-ordinator



Venturer Section Report



It's been another great year for Ventures in Sydney North Region with everyone living up to the sections motto of Look Wide,. This is seen through people pushing boundaries, seizing opportunities, and looking beyond the ordinary. This is seen through events both locally here in Australia and Internationally. Here is a quick snippet of a few!

Venture'26

New Zealand Venture, also known as Venture'26 is a Scouts Aotearoa major event held every three years for young people aged approximately 14 to 18. Bringing together participants from across New Zealand and overseas, the event focuses on adventure, leadership, teamwork and personal development through a wide range of activities and challenges. This year we had multiple leader and youth members who went along, and from all reports had a brilliant time!

Dragonskin 2026 – Imaginarium

Dragon Skin is the premier event in the NSW Venturer Scout calendar, bringing together hundreds of Venturer Scouts, Guides and support crews from across Australia for an unforgettable four-day adventure over the Easter long weekend. This year we had 159 Teams and almost 800 youth participants take part in the event. Unfortunately a Sydney North Unit did not take out first place for a forth year in a row, but we had eight teams in the top 20, which is fantastic to see lots of Units getting involved in the event!

A huge shoutout to all the Leaders and Rovers who once again gave up their time to help run this event over the Easter Long weekend.

Finally I want to congratulate all those Venturers who completed their Peak Award for the Section in the last year who are noted later in this report & congratulate those who have or will be taking part in opportunities like the Dick and Pip Smith Leadership Through Adventure Fund (LTAF), and encourage all youth members to read up on it if they haven't yet!

Liam Painter
Regional Commissioner - Venturers





Rover Section Report



The past year has been an incredibly busy, rewarding, and a transformative period for Sydney North Region Rovers. Our Section has remained active, resilient, and deeply engaged across events, service, training, and leadership. From major State activities to international adventures, our Rovers have continued to demonstrate the spirit, creativity, and commitment that define Roving in Sydney North Region.

We began the year with strong participation at Dragon Skin, where Sydney North delivered eight creative bases on VOC 2 and 2nd Normanhurst Rovers won Best Activity across the entire event. This momentum carried into Scouthike, where Sleep Point 6, led by Emily Marsden, received widespread praise. Our Rover Units continued to deliver hallmark events including 2nd Normanhurst Rovers' Magical Mystery Tour, Turramurra Rovers' Harbour Cruise, Forest Rovers' Claus for a Cause, Mootamia, Roventure, and many other high-quality activities that attracted strong attendance from across NSW. Beyond these major events, Rovers also embarked on adventurous pursuits such as hiking to Everest Base Camp, canyoning and whitewater rafting in New Zealand, caving, camping, and countless local outdoor activities.

One of the standout highlights of the year was the 16th World Scout Moot in Portugal, where Sydney North had a significant and enthusiastic contingent. It was inspiring to see so many of our Rovers embrace international Scouting and return with stories, friendships, and renewed passion for the Movement. Their experiences have strengthened our Region's connection to global Scouting and set the tone for future international engagement.

A major milestone this year was the establishment of 1st Asquith Rovers as a fully endorsed Rover Unit. After a period of sponsorship by 2nd Normanhurst, Asquith has flourished—delivering a diverse program and co-running the Region Moot in their first year. Their initiative and enthusiasm have already made a strong impression, and we look forward to continued growth across the Region, including hopes for future expansion into the Lower North Shore.

The Region Moot, titled Mootamia, was a resounding success. The event introduced new elements—including live music in place of a DJ—which were warmly received by attendees. Congratulations go to 2nd Normanhurst and 1st Asquith for delivering a fresh and memorable Moot. Roventure also returned to a one-day scavenger hunt format and was themed around Top Gear, run by Forest Rovers, and was enjoyed by Venturer and Rover teams alike.

Service remained a defining pillar of Roving in Sydney North. Rovers contributed significantly to Camp Ku-Ring-Gai through two weekends of site clearing and maintenance, supported ANZAC Day ceremonies across the Region, and assisted at Dragonskin, Scouthike, and Barra Brui. Sydney North also won the National Rover Blood Drive, with Epping Rovers achieving the highest number of new donors nationally. Rover Units undertook their own service initiatives as well, including creating hearts for the NICU, running community BBQs, assisting with hall maintenance, supporting Group events, and hosting joint nights with Venturers. Forest Rovers raised \$1000 for the National Centre for Childhood Grief through their annual Claus for a Cause event. We were also proud to see 2nd Normanhurst and Yaralla Rovers nominated for the BP Lodge Service Award which they received earlier in the year.

Training and leadership development continued to strengthen across the Region. This year saw more Rovers completing their Program Support Leadership training, with 100% of Rover Unit Leaders holding the Responsible appointment and embodying the 'Youth Led, Adult Supported' ethos. The Rover Skills Workshop and Treasurer's Course continued to attract participants, and several Rovers completed their Scouting Leadership training. Congratulations go to Sam Marinovich from Kananga Rovers and Patrick Dunstan from 1st Kissing Point Rovers on receiving their Wood Badge, with more expected in the coming year.

We were proud to have several of our members receive Adult Recognition Awards for their contribution to wider Scouting with Emily Marsden (Forest Rovers) and Harley Bryant (Kananga Rovers) receiving Special Service Awards and two of our Rover Advisers, Colin Turner (Collaroy Plateau/Narrabeen Rovers) and David Bury (Asquith Rovers) receiving the Silver Emu and Silver Wattle respectively. Sydney North Rovers dominated the Rover Recognition Awards this year with Emily Marsden and Aaron Kew from Forest Rovers, Harley Bryant and Sam Marinovich from Kananga Rovers and Aimee Savva from 1st Epping Rovers receiving Rover Recognition Awards while Kananga and 1st Epping Rover Units receiving Quality Roving Awards. Congratulations as well to Nick Bassett (formerly 2nd Normanhurst Rovers) on receiving the Stan Bales Rover Service Award and Sophie Carter from 2nd Gordon Rovers on the achievement of the Baden-Powell Scout Award, both are incredible achievements!

Operationally, the Region transitioned from the Ellis Street office to the Roseville Hub and the Rovers relocated gear to Middle Harbour. We welcomed our new Region Commissioner, Richard Hughes-Narborough, who has already shown strong engagement with the Rover Section. This year also marked the formal farewell of Nick Buchner, who served an extraordinary 33 years across RC-Rovers and ARC-Rovers roles. His booting was a fitting celebration of his decades of service and the generations of Rovers he has supported.

As we reflect on the year, we extend heartfelt thanks to the Region Rover Council Executive Team and all Unit Leaders for their dedication and leadership.

Looking ahead to the 2026/25 year, we do so with confidence, momentum, and excitement. Our Units are strong, our Leaders are capable, and our Rovers continue to embody the spirit of adventure, service, and camaraderie that define the Rover Section. It remains an honour to support and celebrate the achievements of Sydney North Region Rovers, and we look forward to another year of growth, challenge, and unforgettable experiences. We wish the new SNRRC Chair, Tom Bury and his team the best of luck for the next year.

Yours in Roving,

Tamara Dudfield
Region Rover Council Chair
2025/2026

Elyse Versace
Regional Commissioner -
Rovers



Joey Scout Challenge Award



Aeden Seol	North St Ives Scout Group
Alyssa Zhang	North St Ives Scout Group
Amelia Sawicki	2nd/3rd Lindfield Scout Group
Angus Edmondson	1st Hornsby Heights Scout Group
Aria Sun	North St Ives Scout Group
Arlo Borkovic	1st Hornsby Heights Scout Group
Bayley Kennedy	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Benjamin Rice	Normanhurst Scout Group
Coby Grant	1st Allambie Heights Scout Group
Darcy McPhie	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Ethan Harney	1st Berowra Scout Group
Evelyn Searle	2nd/3rd Lindfield Scout Group
George Struzynski	1st North Turramurra Scout Group
Heston Ho	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Huxley Thompson	Normanhurst Scout Group
Jayden Bus	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Joshua Bennett	Normanhurst Scout Group
Kyle Bennett	2nd Turramurra Scout Group
Lachlan Kitching	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Lucy Grindley	1st Hornsby Heights Scout Group
Mackenzie Lu	1st Cherrybrook Scout Group
Mathias Ho	2nd Gordon Scout Group
Maxence Foo	1st Cherrybrook Scout Group
Michael Boylan	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Nitara Krishnan	1st Hunters Hill Scout Group
Oliver Vidal	North St Ives Scout Group
Riley Buchanan	1st Hornsby Heights Scout Group
Rowan Hungerford-Pitt	Normanhurst Scout Group
Thomas Heskett	1st Balmoral Scout Group
Yan Pui Leung	1st East Ryde Scout Group

Grey Wolf Award



Allan Li
Allie Weng
Amelie Desmarchelier
Anne Rigney
Aria Dor-Shiffer
Arielle Weber
Atticus Chan
Audrey Kerkham
Aveer Chaudhary
Brandon Tsui
Damian Au
Darcy Sims
Darius Hooshmand
Diandra Premachandra
Elodie Eden
Eloise Kee
Ethan Ward
Evelyn Ouyang
Frederick Li
George Mobbs
Gwenyth Heskett
Harrison Alouisa
Hugh Clifton-smith
Isaac Magers
Ivy Page
Jacob Truong
Jamie Yao
Jasmehar Singh
Jayden Chan
Joshua Catterall
Joshua Ripamonti
Kiran Brierley
Lauren Son
Lennox Cuthbert
Leo Trotman
Lorcan Thompson

1st East Ryde Scout Group
1st East Ryde Scout Group
2nd Turramurra Scout Group
Epping Scout Group
1st Hornsby Heights Scout Group
Greenwich/Wollstonecraft Scout Group
2nd/3rd Lindfield Scout Group
1st East Ryde Scout Group
1st Cherrybrook Scout Group
Eastwood/Marsfield Scout Group
Epping Scout Group
1st/2nd Harbord Scout Group
Belrose Scout Group
1st Hornsby Heights Scout Group
1st East Ryde Scout Group
1st Bayview Scout Group
1st Turramurra Scout Group
1st East Ryde Scout Group
1st Cherrybrook Scout Group
1st North Sydney Scout Group
1st Balmoral Scout Group
1st Turramurra Scout Group
1st Lindfield Scout Group
2nd Turramurra Scout Group
1st Seaforth Scout Group
2nd/3rd Lindfield Scout Group
1st East Ryde Scout Group
1st Elanora Heights Scout Group
1st East Ryde Scout Group
1st Hornsby Heights Scout Group
West Pymble Scout Group
Eastwood/Marsfield Scout Group
1st East Ryde Scout Group
1st/2nd Harbord Scout Group
1st Cherrybrook Scout Group
North St Ives Scout Group

Luca Yu	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Marcus Pinzone	Greenwich/Wollstonecraft Scout Group
Matthew Lowe	1st Forestville Scout Group
Maya Gaffney	Fairlight/Manly Scout Group
Michael Clinton	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Mylo Ricketts	1st Bayview Scout Group
Nathan Lin	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Oliver Commins	1st Turramurra Scout Group
Otis Constantinou	1st Bayview Scout Group
Owen Higgins	1st Balgowlah Scout Group
Owen McArthur	2nd Turramurra Scout Group
Pippin Lock	1st Elanora Heights Scout Group
Rohan Kuttappan	2nd Turramurra Scout Group
Ruby Worrall	1st Asquith Scout Group
SAMUEL LEONHART	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Saxon Lose	1st Bayview Scout Group
Sophie McCullough	2nd Turramurra Scout Group
Theodore Dunne	2nd Turramurra Scout Group
Theodore Murphy	1st Forestville Scout Group
Wing Yan Ian Ng	1st Cherrybrook Scout Group
Zac Gawman	1st/2nd Harbord Scout Group
Zoe Shalav	Fairlight/Manly Scout Group

Australian Scout Award



Alannah Chen
Alwyn Cui
Amber Lewis
Amber McDonald
Amelie Balestro
Antonina Kucharska
Cameron Grant
Casey Lee
Charlotte Chan
Claire Amoore
David Fry
David Miller
Dhilan Lad
Dinuki Kamalaseana
Ella Boyle
Elle Mrkic
Emma Ouyang
Ethan Rutenberg
Isabelle Verity
James Bury
James Gillooly
Katherine Grace Thompson
Kiara Brown
Louis Condon
Matthew Grant
Miles Terley-Li
Neve Peters
Nicolas Higgins
Oliver Vickers
Pippa Smith
Riley Waddingham
Rogan Tsang
Rosa Crawford
Ryan Liu
Ryo Goh
Samuel Mills

1st East Ryde Scout Group
1st East Ryde Scout Group
1st East Ryde Scout Group
1st Cherrybrook Scout Group
1st East Ryde Scout Group
1st East Ryde Scout Group
West Pennant Hills Scout Group
1st Sailors Bay Scout Group
Eastwood/Marsfield Scout Group
2nd/3rd Pennant Hills Scout Group
West Pymble Scout Group
1st Turrumurra Scout Group
West Pennant Hills Scout Group
1st Cherrybrook Scout Group
1st Hornsby Heights Scout Group
Brookvale/Curl Curl Scout Group
1st East Ryde Scout Group
1st Cherrybrook Scout Group
1st Turrumurra Scout Group
1st Asquith Scout Group
1st Berowra Scout Group
1st East Ryde Scout Group
1st East Ryde Scout Group
1st Turrumurra Scout Group
West Pennant Hills Scout Group
1st Sailors Bay Scout Group
West Pymble Scout Group
1st Hornsby Heights Scout Group
West Pymble Scout Group
Normanhurst Scout Group
1st Berowra Scout Group
West Pymble Scout Group
1st Bayview Scout Group
West Pymble Scout Group
2nd Gordon Scout Group
1st Cherrybrook Scout Group

Samuel Mills	1st Cherrybrook Scout Group
Selena Siu	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Seona Arora	West Pennant Hills Scout Group
Seungho Lee	West Pymble Scout Group
Sigrid Besier	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Sonali Dissanayake	1st Cherrybrook Scout Group
Sophia Bryant	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Tyson Grace	1st Cherrybrook Scout Group
Vanessa Ng	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Vasilisa Boag	1st Hornsby Heights Scout Group
Vivian Sadler	1st Turramurra Scout Group
Yan Yuet Lee	West Pymble Scout Group
Yifei Yang	2nd Gordon Scout Group
Zara Rice	1st Collaroy Plateau Scout Group
Zara Williams	Epping Scout Group
Zoe Williams	Epping Scout Group

King's Scout Award



Catherine Wood
Dawid Otrzasek
Eloise Smith
Emily Buchner
Eyal Tsafnat
Finn Warren
Hugo Baird
Jack Bookallil
Jessica Higgins
Kasper Stent
Lana Waddingham
Leonidas Dalmaris
Nina Adams
Oliver Cseszko
Oliver Gibbons
Oliver Hunt
Owen Cameron
Tate Crowley
Thomas Bryant
Timothy Paige
William Raymond

1st Collaroy Plateau Scout Group
1st Allambie Heights Scout Group
Normanhurst Scout Group
West Pymble Scout Group
West Pymble Scout Group
1st North Sydney Scout Group
1st Mosman Scout Group
West Pymble Scout Group
1st Hornsby Heights Scout Group
1st Mosman Scout Group
1st Berowra Scout Group
1st Berowra Scout Group
2nd Gordon Scout Group
Brookvale/Curl Curl Scout Group
1st Balmoral Scout Group
1st Cherrybrook Scout Group
2nd/3rd Pennant Hills Scout Group
Epping Scout Group
Fairlight/Manly Scout Group
1st North Sydney Scout Group
1st Balmoral Scout Group

Baden-Powell Scout Award



Sophie Carter

2nd Gordon Rover Unit

Rover Recognition Awards

Emily Marsden

Forest Rover Unit

Aaron Kew

Forest Rover Unit

Harley Bryant

Kananga Rover Unit

Samuel Marinovich

Kananga Rover Unit

Aimee Savva

1st Epping Rover Unit

Quality Roving Awards

1st Epping Rover Unit

Kananga Rover Unit



Anthony John (Tony) Pearce JP

4th of May 2025

Rob "Jamo" Jamieson

9th of May 2025

Sheena Haugh

20th of May 2025

Geoffrey Wiltshire

8th of 3August 2025

Stuart Leverton

25th of August 2025

Adult Recognition Awards

Congratulations to the following Sydney North Region Leaders and Supporters who have been honoured in the 2025 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.



Gregory Hose

Scout Leader

1st Hornsby Heights Scout Unit

Colin Turner

Group Leader

1st Collaroy Plateau Scout Group

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.



David Antrim

Assistant Scout Leader

1st Berowra Scout Unit 'Turi'

Dean Bassett

Region Commissioner

Sydney North Region

David Fisher

Venturer Scout Leader

2nd Gordon Venturer Scout Unit

Kevin Leggo

Cub Scout Leader

1st Brush Park Cub Park 'Wirra'

Robert Owers

Assistant Group Leader

North St Ives Scout Group

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.



Nicole Bartels	Assistant Venturer Scout Leader	2nd Gordon Venturer Unit
David Bury	Scout Leader	1st Asquith Scout Unit
Lynda Calder	Group Leader	1st Brush Park Scout Group
Alan Draper	Provisional Leader (Group)	Normanhurst Scout Group
Richard Hughes-Narborough	Group Leader	1st Hornsby Heights Scout Group
Stephen Hunt	Venturer Scout Leader	1st Cherrybrook Venturer Unit
Neville Kew	Scout Leader	Brookvale Curl Curl Scout Unit
Mitchell Leggo	District Scout Leader	Moochooboolah District
William Pidd	Group Leader	West Pennant Hills Scout Group

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.



Andrew Bailes	Assistant Venturer Scout Leader	1st Bayview Venturer Scout Unit
James Brisebois	Assistant Scout Leader	Brookvale/Curl Curl Scout Unit
Sandra Candotti	Hall Bookings Officer	1st East Wahroonga Scout Group
Louise Crowther	Cub Scout Leader	1st Bayview Cub Scout Unit
Peter Dean	Assistant Venturer Scout Leader	1st Bayview Venturer Scout Unit
Ann Ford	Assistant Scout Leader	Brookvale/Curl Curl Scout Unit
David Gordon	Assistant Scout Leader	Brookvale/Curl Curl Scout Unit
Musette Healy	Assistant Group Leader	Normanhurst Scout Group
Timothy Holland	Scout Leader – P	1st Mona Vale Scout Unit
Christopher Milligan	Fellowship Member	Berowra Scout Fellowship
Minh Ngo	Joey Scout Leader	1st Cherrybrook Joey Scout Unit
Alan Nott	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	2nd St Ives Cub Scout Unit 'Natani'
Katherine O'Sullivan	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	1st Narrabeen Cub Scout Unit
Roland Simpson	Venturer Scout Leader	1st Brush Park Venturer Scout Unit
Mitchell Stubbs	Assistant Deputy Region Commissioner	Sydney North Region
Tanya Toms	Hall Bookings Officer	West Pennant Hills Scout Group

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.



Cyrus Aspar	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	Normanhurst Cub Scout Unit
William Bailes	Venturer Scout Leader – P	1st Bayview Venturer Scout Unit
Ian Bennett	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	2nd St Ives Cub Scout Unit 'Natani'
Katie Bennett	Adult Helper	Normanhurst Scout Group
Mathew Bennett	Joey Scout Leader	Normanhurst Joey Scout Unit
Lucinda Bennie	Assistant Joey Scout Leader	West Pennant Hills Joey Scout Unit
John Binfield	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	1st North Turramurra Cub Scout Unit
Darren Borrington	Trainee Leader (Cub Scout)	1st North Turramurra Cub Scout Unit
Bryony Brennan	Cub Scout Leader	1st Cherrybrook Cub Scout Unit 'Callicoma'
Roderick Bruggisser	Assistant Scout Leader	2nd St Ives Scout Unit
Harley Bryant	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	Cammeray Cub Scout Unit
John Chan	Assistant Scout Leader	1st Mosman Scout Unit
Ingrid Chapman	Scout Leader	1st Seaforth Scout Unit
Zhi Chu	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	1st Roselea Cub Scout Unit
Dominic Cheung	Assistant Scout Leader	1st Boronia Scout Unit
Nicola Coates	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	1st/2nd Harbord Cub Scout Unit
Kim-Marie Davenport	Assistant Scout Leader	Beecroft Scout Unit
Rosalind Dickson	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	1st Willoughby Scout Unit
Melinda Duff	Fellowship Member	Berowra Scout Fellowship
Kanchana Edirisinghe	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	Normanhurst Cub Scout Unit
Daria Erihe	Trainee Leader (Cub Scout)	1st Balmoral Cub Scout Unit 'Boongarie'
Carole Ford	Trainee Leader (Scout)	1st Boronia Scout Unit

Melissa Garthwaite	Assistant Scout Leader	1st Hornsby Heights Scout Unit 'Yarama'
James Geddes	Scout Leader – P	1st Narrabeen Scout Unit
Christopher Higgs	Cub Scout Leader – P	Normanhurst Cub Scout Unit
Lachlan Hinwood	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	West Pennant Hills Cub Scout Unit 'Red Dogs'
David Hodge	Assistant Joey Scout Leader	Normanhurst Joey Scout Unit
Siddhartha Jaiswal	Adult Helper	1st Roselea Scout Group
David Jennings	Group Secretary	2nd Turramurra Scout Group
Michelle Johansson	Adult Helper	1st Boronia Scout Group
Iryna Kozlova	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	Normanhurst Cub Scout Unit
David Lawrence	Assistant Scout Leader	1st Belmont North Scout Unit
Jamie Lee	Group Treasurer	1st Roselea Scout Group
Katie Leonhart	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	1st East Ryde Cub Scout Unit
Maisie Leung	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	1st Cherrybrook Cub Scout Unit 'Callicoma'
Yu-Hsiang Lin	Assistant Joey Scout Leader	1st East Ryde Joey Scout Unit
Amanada Lipanovic	Assistant Scout Leader	1st Bayview Scout Unit
Teresa Lyons	Group Secretary	1st Willoughby Scout Unit
Katherine Mackenzie	Cub Scout Leader – P	1st Seaforth Cub Scout Unit
Emily Marsden	Unit Leader	Forest Rover Unit
Alice Martin	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	1st North Sydney Cub Scout Unit
Natasha McArthur	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	2nd Turramurra Cub Scout Unit
Richard McCredie	Trainee Leader (Group)	1st Gordon Scout Group
Jamie McGregor	Trainee Leader (Venturer)	2nd Turramurra Venturer Scout Unit
Lionel Newcombe	Cub Scout Leader – P	1st North Turramurra Cub Scout Unit
Robert Newcombe	Cub Scout Leader – P	1st Bayview Cub Scout Unit 'Starboard'
Robert Onishe	Group President	1st East Ryde Scout Group
Brett Peacock	Cub Scout Leader – P	1st Pymble Cub Scout Unit

Richard Pfeil	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	1st Willoughby Cub Scout Unit
Annyce Pidd	Assistant Joey Scout Leader	West Pennant Hills Scout Group
Melanie Robbins	Trainee Leader (Cub Scout)	2nd Turramurra Cub Scout Unit
Sally Robbins	Group Treasurer	2nd Turramurra Scout Group
Avi Shalav	Cub Scout Leader – P	Fairlight/Manly Cub Scout Unit
Nattakarn Somhom	Assistant Joey Scout Leader	1st East Ryde Joey Scout Unit
Stuart Street	Joey Scout Leader – P	1st Belmont North Joey Scout Unit
Benjamin Thomas	Provisional Leader (Scout)	1st Bayview Scout Unit
Jon Treherne	Venturer Scout Leader	1st Mosman Venturer Unit
Bronwyn Walker	Assistant Scout Leader	Normanhurst Scout Unit
Gareth Wilson	Assistant Scout Leader	Beecroft Scout Unit
Geoffrey Wilson	Venturer Scout Leader – P	2nd Turramurra Venturer Scout Unit
Jimmy Zhang	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	1st Mosman Cub Scout Unit



Sydney North Team

Region Supporters Council 2025 - 2026

Office Bearers

Patron	Mr Matt Kean former State Member for Hornsby
Region President	Dr Neil Mattes OAM
Region Chairperson	Mr Philip Cooper OAM
Region Treasurer	Mr Jimmy Zhang
Region Commissioner (Outgoing)	Mr Dean Bassett
Region Commissioner (Acting)	Mr Kerry Griffin
Region Commissioner (Incoming)	Mr Richard Hughes-Narborough
Deputy Region Commissioner	Mr Charles Turner
Deputy Region Commissioner	Mr Phillip Donald
Rover Council Representation	Two representatives from the Sydney North Region Rover Council

Region Uniform Office Holders

Region Commissioner (Outgoing)	Mr Dean Bassett
Region Commissioner (Acting)	Mr Kerry Griffin
Region Commissioner (Incoming)	Mr Richard Hughes-Narborough
Deputy Region Commissioner	Mr Charles Turner
Deputy Region Commissioner	Mr Phillip Donald
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 James Baldwin	Issue Management	Mr Tasman McManis
Cub Scouts	Mr Nathan Shelton	Diversity and Inclusion	Mrs Beth Mitchell
Scouts	Mr Mitchell Rath	WHS	Mr Wayne Finch
Venturer Scouts	Mr Liam Painter	Property	Mr Gregg Barr-Jones
Rovers	Ms Elyse Versace	Members Support	Mrs Faye Bowers
Adult Training & Development	Ms Cassie Donald	Activities	Mr Wesley Leverton
Communications & Marketing	Mr Nick Buchner		

Regional Commissioners—Special Duties

Mr Peter Thomson	Mr Ian Bowers
Mrs Christine Morling	Mr Stephen McCann
Mrs Carol Lycett	Mrs Maureen Twin

Assistant Regional Commissioners

Activities	Adrian Kladnig
Activities	Scott Osborne
Deputy Region Commissioner	Mitchell Stubbs
Scouts	Liam Pullan

District Commissioners

Lower North Shore
Benowie
Northern Beaches
Garigal
Moocooboolah
Turrumburra
Ku-ring-gai (Outgoing)
Ku-ring-gai (Acting)

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

Honorary Commissioners

Mr Barry Greenland
Mr Craig Watford
Mr Ian Londish
Mr Paul McIntyre
Ms Rhonda Christie

Mr Carl Spinks OAM
Mr Theodore Webb
Mr John Tibbitts
Mr Rohan Reynolds

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 Wakehurst
The State Member of Parliament for Manly
The Mayor of Northern Beaches Council
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 Mosman Council
The Mayor of North Sydney Council
The Mayor of Ryde Council
The Mayor of Willoughby Council

Region Executive Committee 2025—2026

Region President Dr. Neil Mattes OAM
Region Chairperson Mr. Philip Cooper OAM
Region Treasurer Mr. Jimmy Zhang
Region Commissioner Mr. Kerry Griffin (acting)
Region Commissioner Mr. Richard Hughes-Narborough (incoming)
Deputy Region Commissioner Mr. Charles Turner
Deputy Region Commissioner Mr. Phillip Donald
Elected members
The Hon James Wallace State Member of Parliament for Hornsby
The Hon Julian Lesser State Member of Parliament for Berowra

Regional Commissioners

Mr. Mitchell Rath
Mr. Philip Donald
Mr. Steve Tufts
Ms. Elyse Versace

Region Rover Council

Region Rover Council Chair

REGION TRUSTEES

Region Chairperson Mr. Philip Cooper OAM
Region Treasurer Mr. Jimmy Zhang
Region Commissioner Mr. Kerry Griffin (acting)
Chairperson Region Property Mr. Gregg Barr-Jones

Delegates to Branch Council

Region President Dr. Neil Mattes OAM
Region Chairperson Mr. Philip Cooper OAM
Region Commissioner Mr. Kerry Griffin (acting) - Outgoing
Region Commissioner Mr. Richard Hughes-Narborough—Incoming
Deputy Region Commissioner Mr. Charles Turner
Deputy Region Commissioner Mr. Phillip Donald
Regional Commissioner Rovers Ms. Elyse Versace—Outgoing
Rover (Under 30) Ms. Tamara Dudfield—Incoming



Treasurer Report

The Region extends its sincere appreciation to all Regional and State support staff for their ongoing contribution to the organisation's finance function. While many do not interact directly with adult and youth members, their work remains essential to the effective operation of the Region and the support provided behind the scenes.

For the 2025/2026 financial year, the Region recorded a surplus of \$11,693. Revenue was generated primarily through Regional and District activities, with Scout Hike representing the Region's most significant event during the year. The Region also derives rental income from a number of halls managed at the Regional level. Expenditure was driven largely by Regional activities and the salaries of two Regional support staff. Insurance continues to be a significant cost consideration, representing a material proportion of the income generated by Regionally managed halls.

The Region's financial performance improved significantly during the year compared with prior periods in which deficits were recorded. Through the efforts of the District Commissioner and the extensive negotiations undertaken, bad debt was reduced from \$50,000 in the previous year to nil in the current year. At year end, all invoices were either current or less than 60 days overdue. Several of these recoveries related to invoices that had been outstanding for more than two years at the close of the previous reporting period.

With the reopening of Camp Ku-ring-gai, the camp is expected to make a material contribution to Regional income in the coming year. This is anticipated to support the value of the \$100,000 invested in remediation works at the site last year, which were undertaken to bring the facilities to contemporary standards and ensure compliance with current WHS requirements.

During the year, finance processes were streamlined, with the majority of the Regional finance function transferred to the State level. This has improved the efficiency of payment processing and reduced the key person risk previously associated with these responsibilities being managed by a very small team.

Cost-of-living pressures continue to affect Scout families. In response to recent interest rate increases and elevated inflation, careful consideration will continue to be given to balancing affordability for families with the financial sustainability of the organization when setting registration fees for Regional and District events. It remains important that participation in Scouts is accessible to all families, regardless of financial circumstances, and that cost does not become a barrier to involvement in Scouting.

The Region also acknowledges and thanks Donna and Belinda for their valued assistance over the past 12 months during the leadership transition from Doug.

Jimmy Zhang
Regional Treasurer



Sydney North Region Annual Report 2025/2026