

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Friday 12 April 2019**



## **Our young role models are prepared for life**



Level 1, Quad 3  
102 Bennelong Parkway,  
Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127  
ABN 42 460 434 054

PO Box 125,  
Lidcombe NSW 1825

T 02 9735 9000

info@nsw.scouts.com.au  
nsw.scouts.com.au

Almost every teenager and young adult faces pressures, as they contemplate what the future may hold.

They're not just dealing with school or university stresses or worrying about keeping up with their mates. They're also starting to think about – and fear – their job and housing prospects.

So it's inspiring to find young adults who are not just coping well, but are actively helping others to find their feet and get prepared for life.

Scouts Australia NSW is one of the longest-running youth organisations and has been inspiring young people of all ages with its unique mix of outdoor adventures, practical skills, early leadership opportunities and new friends right on the doorstep.

For those young people in the most senior Section – Rover Scouts – aged between 18 and 26, the culmination of these adventurous experiences over many years builds personal resilience and skills to help them to cope better with potential stress and adversity.

21-year old Rover Scout Meg Cummins is a fan. "I was surprised at how easy it was to fit in, find people I liked and head off for the weekend to go hiking, caving, canyoning, flying, rafting or just watching the stars with friends on a spontaneous camp."

Meg acknowledges she's built an inner strength from going outside her comfort zone, building up personal confidence by overcoming challenges. She also learned the value of making a positive impact on others.



**Scouts Australia**  
Member of the World  
Organization of the  
Scout Movement

This year, she was named a finalist in the NSW Young Achievers Awards (Youth Development and Community Service), recognised for her community contributions in helping modernise the Youth Program for Scouts Australia, as Assistant Project Manager in a humanitarian project in Rwanda, and working to inspire the next generation of change makers through her role as State Commissioner Youth Empowerment at NSW Scouts.

Harrison Lantry (Harry), who volunteers as the State Commissioner for the Rover Section, is another young adult who encourages others to create memories for life in the great outdoors.

“Some of the physical challenges – steep hikes or an unexpected cold night under canvas – seemed daunting. But none of them felt impossible as I was with my friends, and we laughed about it afterwards and made sure we were better prepared next time.”

Thanks to the leadership skills they’ve built through their Scouting experiences, both Meg and Harry are proactively supporting other young people to build their confidence and feel more able to cope with the life challenges ahead.

“Scouting taught me so much, that when I became an adult, I wanted to help more people within and outside the scouting movement have the same awesome experiences as me,” Harry explained.

Scouts Australia NSW delivers a range of life skills to young people, covering leadership, teamwork and communication, which are valuable employability skills to help young people stand out when applying for a job.

Youth unemployment is a persistent problem in Australia, and while having specific job skills are important, it helps to be known as dependable, easy to get along with and open to learning new skills.

Research in the UK from 2017 showed Scouts scored 19.5% higher on life skills and employability than non-scouts.

Scouts NSW is proud of the long-standing contribution its outstanding volunteers – including many young adults – make to their communities, giving young people across NSW a great start in life.

See below for the inspiring stories from some of our young role models.

After all, if Scouts helps get a young person out of bed in the morning feeling a little better about themselves, it’s getting them ready for the rest of their lives.

-- ENDS --

Media: For high resolution images or to organise an interview, please contact Rosalie Batistoni on 0421 079 903 or email [communications@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:communications@nsw.scouts.com.au)

## Meet Meg Cummins



Meg Cummins is the NSW Scouts State Commissioner Youth Empowerment.

She recently met the Chief Scout of NSW, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales to launch the four-year strategic plan for NSW Scouts.

Through her Scouting experiences, Meg has had the opportunity to travel to Ecuador, Iceland, Singapore, Norway, Finland and the Philippines, attending events and gatherings and meeting some of the 38 million Scouts around the world.

“In Scouting, you get to work with people from all demographics and interest areas. You don’t all have the same opinions. But Scouting has taught me how to work collaboratively, appreciating all opinions and working towards inclusive and creative solutions.”

Meg joined 5,000 other Scouts at the World Scout Moot in Iceland, which was attended by people from 96 different countries. She immediately felt part of a global community, whose shared goals could have a massive positive impact on the world.

“The experience made me realise I’m not alone. Sometimes you feel so small and insignificant, but at the Moot I knew that the experiences I’d had, the confidence I’d built and the skills I’d gained could help make a positive change. I really believe that when Scouts come together, we can change the world for the better.”

## Meet Liam Brown



Liam Brown (4<sup>th</sup> from the right) is a Rover Scout who volunteers for NSW Scouts to support the implementation of its new youth program.

“I learned leadership skills from an early age as a Scout,” Liam says, after being given opportunities to lead small teams of young people through a range of adventures, including outdoor camps and hikes.

One of his most memorable experiences was having the opportunity to travel to New Zealand in 2016, joining a contingent from Australia for the hugely popular “Venture”, which offers young people aged between 15 and 18 a variety of activities held over ten eventful days.

“New Zealand was my first international trip without my family and it gave me a great sense of independence and achievement in a supportive environment. I met so many amazing people and took part in activities I’d never experienced before including scuba diving, white-water rafting and learning about the Maori culture. I just loved it.”

While overseas, Liam met people with widely different opinions, many of whom challenged his long-held perspectives. He became more confident about being able to cope in new situations.

“Travelling independently helped me trust my abilities when facing ambiguity or new experiences, which means I’m more ready to handle some of the uncertainties of the future.”

In particular, the communication skills he learned as a new leader have helped his studies, where his ability to listen to other perspectives and identify a solution that works for everyone have been invaluable. Towards the end of last year, he was selected to help NSW Scouts with its communication program for its new, contemporary youth program.