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Dear Scouting friends,

February 22 is the day we celebrate our Founder's birth.

It is a moment for us to reflect on who we are, where we've come from and what we value as Scouts.

And this is especially important at a time when so many of us are grieving personal loss from bushfires, or feeling heartbroken about the destruction of millions of hectares of our beautiful State from drought, bushfires and more recently, flooding.

The environmental challenges we've faced in 2020 have distracted us from celebrating a new year and a new decade, and at times, it feels as if there is more conflict on how to address these issues than cooperation to find solutions.

So it's a good time for us to remind ourselves about the values Lord Baden-Powell wanted to instil in Scouts.

In his final letter, our Founder said, "The Movement has already, in the comparatively short period of its existence, established itself onto a wide and so strong a footing as to show most encouraging promise of what may be possible to it in the coming years."

He explained, "Its aim is to produce healthy, happy, helpful citizens, of both sexes, to eradicate the prevailing narrow self-interest; personal, political, sectarian and national, and to substitute for it a broader spirit of self-sacrifice and service in the cause of humanity; and thus to develop mutual goodwill and cooperation not only within our own country but abroad, between all countries."

These words couldn't be more pertinent in 2020.

At the heart of our Founder's ambition for Scouts, was to recognise the importance of gratitude.

Gratitude is about feeling valued by others and seeing value in others. Being appreciated and saying 'thank you' can make a huge difference to how motivated and positive individuals feel about their volunteering experience at Scouts.

Saying 'thank you' is a small moment with big ripples. It's confirmation that we all depend on each other, that we are all part of the same community, who are joined by innumerable acts of giving.



It's equally important to make it clear when we want to be appreciated. If you feel as if your contribution isn't being recognised, I encourage you to let others know that you feel that way. You can't assume your fellow volunteers know they need to say thanks. After all, everyone who cares about you will be more than willing to share their gratitude with you.

It won't surprise you to hear that the health benefits of expressing gratitude are numerous. People who regularly thank others - especially for something specific - are more satisfied, healthier and happier. Leadership courses regularly teach the importance of expressing thanks. Grateful leaders inspire trust. They are perceived as having more integrity.

Lord Baden-Powell said, "My belief is that we were put into this world of wonders and beauty with a special ability to appreciate them, in some cases to have the fun of taking a hand in developing them, and also in being able to help other people instead of overreaching them and, through it all, to enjoy life - that is, to be happy."

On Founder's Day, why not take the time to show your appreciation to the other Leaders with whom you volunteer. We've created some downloadable templates to make it even easier for you. You can find them [here!](#)



My sincere thanks to every one of you involved in Scouting across our great State. Your contribution and your support for our organisation is deeply appreciated.

I wish you a very happy and fulfilled year.

Yours in Scouting.

Neville Tomkins OAM JP
Chief Commissioner
NSW Branch

If you wish to email the Chief Commissioner direct, his email address is Chief.Commissioner@nsw.scouts.com.au.

Child Safety in Scouting

Scouts Australia NSW is committed to operating as a child safe organisation and implementing child safe policies and practices in accordance with the elements of a child safe institution outlined by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse report entitled Creating Child Safe Institutions.

Remember

All suspicions, concerns or allegations about criminal matters or child protection matters should be reported directly to the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner (Youth Safety, Compliance and Support), the CEO or the Child Protection Officer at the NSW State Office.

To make a report use the online [child protection form](#), call 02 9735 9000 or email childprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au.

Imminent Danger

If a young person is in imminent danger, the matter should be reported directly and immediately to NSW Police on 131 444.

Where a report is made to the police, you should also subsequently notify the NSW State Office.

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