

## Thank you to everyone who volunteers for Scouts NSW

This week, Australia celebrates its volunteers.

It's time to recognise the contribution by the 3 in 10 Australians who help change lives, and change communities for the better.

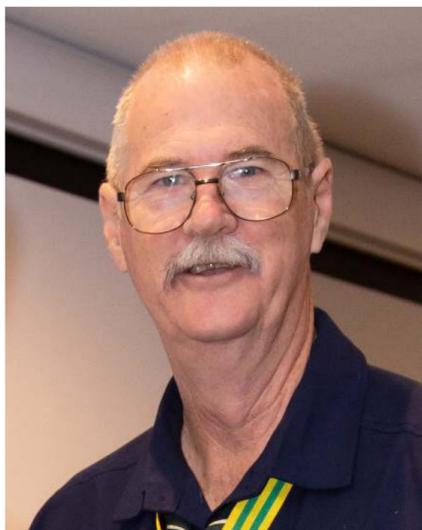
At Scouts NSW, we have almost 4,000 adults who freely share their skills, abilities, life experiences, compassion, intellect and humour to make a difference to the lives of thousands of young people.

### An introduction

Last month, we were appointed as the two Deputy Chief Commissioners for Scouts NSW. We've been involved with Scouts for many years, and we feel very proud of the work Scouting does to build life skills and create adventures for the youngest members of our local communities. Together we have held different roles – including in Sections and Groups, District and Region, in training and promotions, at State and Board level.



**Belinda Francis**  
Deputy Chief Commissioner  
(Program, Youth Safety and Support)



**Phil Crutchley**  
Deputy Chief Commissioner  
(Operations)

Why do we volunteer? Everyone has their personal reasons. For us, it's the opportunity to provide support, skills and experiences that give young people confidence, hope and strength and the courage to face into challenges that set them up for the rest of their lives. And to leave a legacy for the future.

As with most volunteers, we don't ask for recognition or accolades. We give our time without any expectation of reward. It may not always be fun but the rewards are huge: lasting friendships, social activities and life-long learning are just some of the unexpected rewards from our volunteering experiences. While volunteers to Scouting all come for different reasons, we stay for the same great opportunities to make a difference.

### Changing Communities, Changing Lives



Volunteers sometimes never know the profound impact they've had on someone's life. A kind word, a listening ear, a positive experience can mean so much to a person – younger and older. Perhaps more so during this extraordinary time we're currently experiencing.

We may never know whether a person is feeling lonely, worried, anxious or bored. But we do know, from research and experience, that the time we give is impactful, especially to young people. By investing our personal time and energy in building creative adventures, indoors and out, with youth members, we are showing we care.

Our Founder Lord Baden-Powell knew this too, when he said. "The most worthwhile thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others."

According to national statistics, volunteers in Australia are generous with their time. Over half of Australia's volunteers typically contribute more than 50 hours during a calendar year, and a further 20% contribute more than 200 hours a year. Well over half of all volunteers have been volunteering for more than 10 years, and 70% have parents who had been volunteers.

Did you know that together we annually volunteer 1.5 million hours which is the equivalent value of \$65.5 million dollars?

Volunteers are considered 25% more trustworthy than non-volunteers, and formal volunteering is estimated to contribute \$25 billion to the Australian economy. Volunteering is also identified as being important for connecting people to career paths and labour markets that are better paid and more stable.

Who wouldn't want to be a member of this extraordinary group of people?

**To the world you may be one person  
but to one person you may be the world**

However small your act of kindness may be, the impact it has on the world is huge.

Thank you for your contribution. And thank you for the contribution you will make in the future. Together we are creating a movement that will thrive and grow and change more young people's lives for the better.

Yours in Scouting,

Belinda and Phil

### 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](mailto: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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