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I never imagined

Dear Scouting friends,

When the Founder of Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell, first dreamed up the idea of creating a youth Movement, he said, *"It has more value than any other attribute in life."*

Could he have imagined that today, Scouting is one of the world's greatest character-building factories, nurturing the life skills that adults and children need to succeed?

For over 100 years, Scouts has fuelled futures, fired imaginations, generated inspiration and encouraged people to believe in themselves.

"I never imagined I would be leading a youth section in NSW. My peers have encouraged, supported and built me to be the person I am today and I feel all the stronger for it. They helped me to take the chance and the challenge to help others", says 25-year old Ben Kuzma, our Rovers State Commissioner.

Today, we're sharing the results of the recent **Resilience Survey**, which provide some of the most detailed, statistically valid metrics I've ever seen about the quantifiable value of Scouting.

And they couldn't be more timely.

The **Resilience Survey** showed that Scouts in NSW performed better in every category than those who had not attended Scouts. Scouts showed higher levels of resilience, self-confidence, leadership, perseverance and good communication.

The results show that Scouts hold out more hope for a positive future than non-Scouts (79% versus 69%), Scouts get along with people who are different to them (86% versus 81%) and Scouts are more able to trust others (82% versus 69%).

You can see the full results of the survey [here](#). I encourage you to read it – I hope it will make you feel incredibly proud, as it did for me.



At Scouts, we deliver a range of skills for life that help people to cope - and thrive - during challenging times. There is simply no other voluntary organisation like it.

After all, whatever young people want to achieve in life, whether it's abseiling down a rockface or starting their own business, they can't rely solely on schoolwork to get them there. Teamwork, leadership, perseverance and good communication – these are the skills that will help them succeed.

"I never imagined that at age 14, I would travel to Switzerland for 3 weeks with Scouts without any family members. I made some amazing friends that I will never forget. Reaching the top of the Löchenpass mountain and looking out over the endless mountain range was just awesome," said NSW Venturer Toby Luck.

We empower young people to make decisions, take the lead and learn by doing. We give them a safe space where they can work with others to plan and embark on their own adventures, indoors and out. Indeed, during the current restrictions we're experiencing to reduce the spread of COVID-19, over 90 per cent of our Groups simply moved their activities online.

The Resilience Survey was conducted by [Resilient Youth Australia](#), and it found that young people participating in Scouts reported higher levels of resilience and overall better life satisfaction than their peers. It also showed that children and young people who participate in Scouts for longer, saw these levels of resilience increase over the course of their involvement.

"I never imagined I would see so many smiles on faces when our younger members achieve something that they didn't think they could do", said Greg Denning from the Hunter & Coastal Region.

Resilience has never been more important than now. It is giving young people and adults the courage, positivity and confidence to keep going, even during these tough times.

I encourage you to take stock of what you've achieved at NSW Scouts. You may surprise yourself. I asked a few adult volunteers what they never imagined doing before they joined Scouts.

"I never imagined I'd be a journalist and run a newspaper", said new Deputy Chief Commissioner Bel Francis, *"I did both at two different Jamborees."*

"I never imagined running twelve Agoonorees for special needs, organising events for up to 180 people," said Mark Burfield, our Special Needs State Commissioner.

"I never imagined I would gain enough confidence to sing on stage in front of over 13,000 people in Scouts", said Amy Snowdon, who loved it so much, she's now one of our Jambassadors for AJ2022.

Please find the time to read the Resilience Survey findings. They are simply remarkable. They truly prove that the Scouting organisation is one of our country's shining lights. Every day, we are living our promise to help other people. And we are preparing young people for life.

Yours in Scouting,

Neville Tomkins OAM JP
Chief Commissioner
Scouts Australia (NSW Branch)

To contact the Chief Commissioner, please email 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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