



[Trouble reading this email? click here](#)

14 September 2021

### *Bring Out Our Best*

Dear Members and Supporters,

As we enter another month of restrictions across NSW, I know many of us are finding it hard to stay optimistic.

We all have stories of how the pandemic has affected us personally. In my weekly calls to members to ask how they're going, I hear about family members who have lost jobs, friends who are overwhelmed at work, or relatives who live overseas and are desperate to see us.

It's sometimes hard, given the limited daily routines we are familiar with, to acknowledge that we will eventually move beyond these difficult circumstances and have something to look forward to.

This is especially tough when we are faced with high COVID case numbers and daily news of fatalities. But we can help ourselves by focusing on the solutions rather than the problems. Instead of talking about the issues we're facing today, we can talk about how we can eventually return to the way we lived and worked before the pandemic.

This means being honest about the issues holding us back. It means coming to terms with living with COVID in our societies and managing and mitigating the consequences. It means prioritising our mental health and being able to recognise when we are struggling and seeking help. It isn't a sign of weakness to ask for a break from Scouting. It's a sign of strength. Finally, it means supporting the young people in Scouts to be better prepared to cope with the good times and the bad.

The most challenging situations can indeed bring out the best in people. I reflect on the way we pivoted from face-to-face meetings to online sessions, holding section meetings, AGMs and award ceremonies online, and finding adventures and ideas that kept young people connected.

The human spirit can overcome just about anything when we are forced to confront it. We need to face it head on and give others the hope they need that there is a light around the corner.

As Lord Baden-Powell said, "Happiness is open to all, since, when you boil it down, it merely consists of contentment with what you have got and doing what you can for other people."

In my role, I receive a lot of advice about what I should be doing, what I should not be doing, and what I should be focused on. In a Movement of our size, there will always be different views. I think we could sometimes express our differences of opinion in a gentler way. We sometimes lose sight of the fact that we're all human beings trying to do our best.

Right now, our State teams are working collectively with an eye to the solution. We know we don't have all the answers, but we will be prepared to adapt what we do, so Scouts remains relevant for years to come.

Being part of Scouts is a great privilege.

Please take care of yourselves. Take a break if and when you need. Touch base with colleagues from Scouts who you haven't heard from in a while. See how they are.

My sincere thanks for your continued support. We have so much to be grateful for, and so much to look forward to.

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](mailto:chief.commissioner@nsw.scouts.com.au).

*Scouts NSW acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout NSW.  
We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.*

#### **Youth Safety in Scouting**

Scouts Australia NSW is committed to operating as a youth safe organisation and implementing youth 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 youth protection form](#), call 02 9735 9000 or email [youthprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:youthprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au).

#### **Imminent Danger**

If someone is in danger NOW, the matter should be reported directly to NSW Police on 000. Where a report is made to the Police, you must also subsequently notify Scouts NSW State Office.

You've received this email as a member of Scouts Australia NSW, or through your email address being the contact email provided for a member of Scouts Australia NSW.

Should you no longer wish to receive emails like this one, please contact the Members Services Team at the State Office with your email address and member number to have your membership record updated - [info@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:info@nsw.scouts.com.au).

[To stop receiving these emails click here.](#)



[www.nsw.scouts.com.au](http://www.nsw.scouts.com.au)

© Scouts Australia NSW

