



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

14 December 2021

Helping Others

Dear Scouting friends and Supporters,

We're nearing the end of another extraordinary year.

It's a good time to take stock, and re-evaluate what's worked and what we might need to do differently.

I'm reminded of our shared purpose: working together to contribute to the development of young people. It's about helping young people reach their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual potential as individuals, becoming responsible citizens in their local, national and international communities.

It is the community aspect of our role that I'd like to focus on at the end of this year.

Helping Our Communities



In 2021, Australians have found an increased sense of community. For the first time, almost all of us were at home, trusting our neighbours and those around us to be kind and community-minded.

There are so many reasons to feel proud about the way Australians responded to the pandemic. Yes, there are ongoing economic and health issues, including significant mental health issues, but the generosity of neighbours and strangers alike has gone a long way to help people cope.

There's been no "she'll be right mate" or "I'm looking after number one" attitude. Instead, there's been a strong sense of community and belonging.

During uncertainty, it helps to focus on the things within our control. And being considerate to those around us shaped how we got through, and what we'll look like on the other side.

Helping Our Members

Similarly, our volunteers demonstrated extraordinary levels of care and positivity this year, providing the ability for our Scout formations to continue to operate during the extended lockdown, by keeping our youth members inspired with fun adventures, engaging program content and creative ideas.

We discovered new ways of delivering our program, and we found opportunities to be even more inclusive, introducing practical adventures that all youth members could participate in.

My teams have been actively exploring how they can better support front-line leaders. This year, they've delivered a wide range of training, tools, materials and activities. We have only a small team of State and Region volunteers, alongside our State Scouts Service Centre, however there's a lingering perception of bureaucracy, and that these roles are too far removed from young people and out of touch with their needs.

Interestingly, our new State team now constitutes the youngest, most diverse and most energetic team we've ever had in the history of Scouts NSW. It wasn't easy to build, as we didn't want to lose good people from our Groups, so many have stayed connected as frontline leaders, and it's exciting to see the practical knowledge they bring. They are a great example of how we can make positive changes that improve the quality and level of support our amazing Group and Section Leaders have access to. I'm confident that the energy of this team will cascade through to everyone and help our youth-facing volunteers feel motivated and more fulfilled by their experience at Scouts.

Helping Each Other



In any voluntary organisation, there are different views on how to best achieve a specific goal. But we must remind each other that we're on the same team, and that having a diverse group of people is well known to be a good thing.

We are actively recruiting new people to join Scouts. Some come to us with their own Scouting experience but others know very little about our Movement.

We've all had that awkward feeling of not knowing what's going on. Joining an existing team – where people have already built working relationships and ways of talking about things – can leave a new member feeling like an outsider.

Making sure everyone feels welcomed and valued is a key part of that.

For those who are new to Scouts, I can guarantee it'll be an adventure like no other. We're committed to making changes that ensure we're here to give new young people the adventures they want, the opportunities to which they aspire, and a sense of fulfilment with the achievements they make. Thank you for joining.

For those who've been here longer, I want to thank you for your continued support. I encourage you to keep adapting, learning strengths and abilities you never knew you had, and enjoying the journey we'll be travelling together.

My thanks to you all for everything you've done to help Scouts this year.

It's been a remarkable 12 months, which has surfaced new opportunities, new perspectives and greater confidence about who we are and where we want to be.

I wish you a safe and rejuvenating holiday season. No doubt 2022 will bring a different and new adventure for us all.

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.

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.

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.

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



www.nsw.scouts.com.au

© Scouts Australia NSW

