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13 January 2022

New CEO welcome

Carolyn Campbell has now started with Scouts NSW as the new CEO. Joining at the beginning of the year, Carolyn said it was exciting to see the opportunities for Scouts during 2022 and she looks forward to getting out and meeting Scout Leaders and learning about the variety of Scouts activities planned for the year.

Adult Recognition Awards

Our Adults in Scouting are vital to the success of our organisation. The Adult Recognition Awards for 2022 are now open, and we encourage you to nominate a peer who deserves to be recognised for their contribution and service to Scouts NSW. We are looking for adults who are role models for their local communities and who collectively represent why we are the preferred extra-curricular youth-based organisation in NSW.

We know there are countless examples of dedication and commitment. But these awards are less about the number of years an adult has volunteered, and more about the impact of the outcomes they've delivered. We're looking for exceptional achievement from across the Scouts community. Don't forget that every candidate must exhibit behaviours consistent with the Scout Law. Our Award Committee takes your submissions on trust, so please give them your respect and consideration.

Nominations for this year's ARAs are now open. Regions will have received a list of their eligible members in November 2022. Detailed guidelines are here and the nomination form should be submitted as soon as possible to Region Offices, who can also confirm the final date for nominations.

You can see more about the different award categories here and see the 2021 ARA recipients here.

Stan Bales Award

Are you a Rover Scout who has contributed above and beyond during your membership? Or do you know such a Rover Scout? Then consider a nomination for the Stan Bales Award which is specifically to acknowledge the contribution of Rovers Scouts. Submissions need to be received by 5 February 2022. See the Guidelines here and Nomination Form here.

Scout of the Year - People's Choice voting

Scouts NSW has 17 incredible Joey Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts who are our 2021 Scout of the Year Finalists!

We want you to help celebrate the achievements of our awesome finalists by voting for your favourite. Click here to find out about our finalists and vote for your People's Choice.

Voting closes **11.59 pm, 9 February 2022.** The People's Choice winner will be announced at our Scout of the Year Award Ceremony on 26 February 2022.

New Scouts NSW Policy – Prevention of Bullying

A new Policy has been approved – **POL44 Prevention of Bullying** - and all adult members are encouraged to look at it here.

This Policy serves as a strong reminder to all Scouts members to live by the values expressed in the Scout Promise and Law. Scouts NSW has a zero tolerance towards bullying and every member has the duty to promote a safe Scouting environment. The purpose of the policy is to minimize the harmful impacts of bullying which can often leave individuals feeling powerless, and can have long term emotional and psychological consequences.

The policy encourages members who feel bullied or harassed to show courage by voicing their concerns and engaging in the appropriate dispute resolution process to ensure that any existing issues do not go left unresolved or develop.

How to prevent bullying from occurring?

Bullying can often be prevented by effective communication. If you are aware that a member is being bullied, it is important to talk to the person and see if you can help them, then notify the most appropriate Leader. This may be your Group Leader, District Commissioner or Regional Commissioner.

The Scout Promise and Law serves as an important reminder that we should:

- **Be respectful** and considerate of other people in the Movement,
- **Do what is right** by taking responsibility for our own actions, and
- **Demonstrate courage** by voicing any concerns and intervening when a member is being bullied.

Treating others with respect, kindness and compassion, regardless of our differences, speaks to our commitment to Scout Law and Promise and the Scouts Code of Conduct and Ethics.
If you have an issue which you believe cannot be resolved at a local level, you are encouraged to report your concerns via the "Log it" function on the Scouts NSW website here

How Scouts NSW can help

If you have experienced bullying at Scouts or know of someone who has been bullied, support is available via your local Region Office who can arrange a Member Support person to be appointed. Alternatively, you may contact the State Commissioner for Member Support directly at Wendy.White@nsw.scouts.com.au.

Update your Scout Hall Hire information

Do you hire out your Scout Hall for community use? When did you last check / update your Scout Hall hire information on the JoinScouts website?

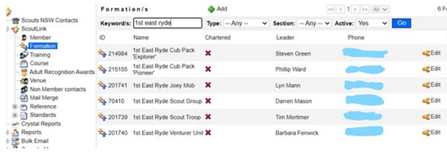
Promoting your Scout Hall for hire can help generate valuable income for Scout groups as well as supporting wider use of these facilities by opening them to local community groups. If you are planning to apply for grants for your hall, this is an essential eligibility criteria in many grant programs.

Check out our step-by-step guide on how you can update your Scout Hall information here.

Update your Group information

Now is the time that many parents are looking for new activities for their children. Searching online for their nearest Scout Group and finding out more about what is available is often their first step. So, now is a great time to check your Group's information on the Find a Group page on the joinscouts.com.au Scouts NSW website.

All Groups can have contact information, section details (times of meetings etc.) listed here. To update your Group information, you just need to go to the Formation tab in Scoutlink and make your edits. This is synced to the Scouts website (allow a few days for it to be updated).



February Grant Workshops on Community Building Partnership Program

Got an infrastructure project in your Hall you wanted to obtain funding for? Then the Community Building Partnership Program might be a good opportunity to apply for.

The 2022 Grant Round is likely to open in late Q1 2022. Historically, Scouts NSW has been very successful obtaining funding through this Program, and we encourage you to apply.

The February Grants Workshop on 9th February 2022 will focus on success stories and the application process. Join us to learn more about what it takes to submit a successful application.

You can sign up using this button:

Wednesday, 9 February 2022
7.30 pm – 8.30 pm

Youth Safety in Scouting

Scouts 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 Scouts NSW Service Centre. 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 Service Centre.

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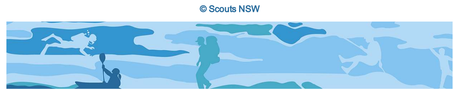
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