

TO: Fellowship Members  
CC: DCCs, RCs, SCs

### Fellowship Newsletter: Adventurous Activities

Dear Fellowship colleagues,

This year, we are able to recommence our full suite of Scouting activities, and give the young people we support every opportunity to enjoy adventure.

At Scouts NSW Fellowship, many of our colleagues are actively involved in adventures, and for the first newsletter of 2022, we're sharing news and updates from around the State on the topic of adventurous activities.

Our guest Editor is Kenton Jurgs, the State Commissioner for Adventurous Activities, who brings us the latest news about his team's work. We'll also hear about recent activities led by Fellowship members, and get a peek into exciting new adventures being planned for later this year.

The subsequent Fellowship newsletters will be themed around the predominant areas of focus of our Fellowship groups, giving you an insight into what we do, how we support our frontline leaders, and we'll keep you in touch with big developments taking place at Scouts NSW.

With more than 20 active Fellowships now operating around our State, and 400 adult members associated with Fellowships, our aim is to stay connected with our local Scout Groups and assist them in a variety of ways.

Thank you for your support of Scouting, and as always, if you'd like to give feedback on this newsletter or contribute to future updates, please email [communications@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:communications@nsw.scouts.com.au)

Don't forget to stay in touch with news via our [dedicated Fellowship webpage](#).

Happy Scouting!



#### Welcome from Kenton Jurgs

Scouting is one of the greatest places to get active. Our adventures are at the centre of many of the life skills we teach young people. Scouts have walked on the moon, rowed across oceans, navigated the polar icecaps and scaled the highest mountains.

The way we run Adventurous Activities in NSW has evolved following a huge amount of work to update guidelines, processes and systems. The intention is to provide a wide range of exciting activities for our youth members, that ensure we protect everyone and keep our people safe.

This work was initiated following an investigation by SafeWork Australia into an abseiling accident last year, and I'm pleased to confirm that it has mostly been completed.



We have now launched a new Adventurous Activities hub on the Scouts NSW website, which is a one-stop shop for everything you need to know about planning and running an Adventurous Activity and gaining the qualifications to lead an activity and meet the pre-requisite risk and safety standards. The site includes access to relevant activity forms, insurance information, an activity plan templates, relevant position descriptions, lists of relevant qualifications along with support guides and information about who to contact.

We have State Leaders for bushwalking, alpine, cycling, vertical, aquatics, paddling, boating, archery and motoring.

There is even a video in the Latest Updates section that gives you a full overview of the changes we've made. We encourage you to explore the site and use the tools for your next activity.

[Click here to view the new Adventurous Activities hub.](#)

We're also pleased to advise that we are launching 'Motoring in Scouts' as a new Adventurous Activity. We intend to bring a program suitable for all members from Joys to Leaders. If this is something you're interested in, please contact Paul McIntyre if you want to get involved and help us build up this exciting new activity. Look out for the first edition of our expert training on an essential skill for Leaders: towing a trailer.

As always, don't hesitate to contact me or a member of my team if you need any assistance or advice at [adventurousactivity@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:adventurousactivity@nsw.scouts.com.au)

#### Sirius Cup

Over the weekend of 18 to 20 March, a contingent of Sea Scout groups from NSW and ACT convened for the annual Sirius Cup Regatta. Supported by Fellowship Groups, this was the 70th year of the event, held at Balmoral Park in Sydney. And it was long awaited, after a three year delay.

The Regatta involves a wide range of canoeing and kayaking races, with a Scout and Open marathon, an Iron Man involving running and swimming, snorkelling, rowing events, sailing races and even activities for the land lubbers.



Despite heavy downpours on the Friday, by Saturday afternoon a fleet of 40 boats headed out for the sailing race. The wind was moderate to fresh, around 17 to 24 knots. Sunday started early with lighter sailing conditions enabling more boats to finish.

The Sirius Cup has a rich history. Port Sirius is the location of the oldest Sea Scout headquarters in Mosman Bay. It is named after the HMS Sirius, flagship of the First Fleet.

The original Regatta cup has been awarded since the 1940s and is given to the line honours winner of Division 1. The 2022 winner was Sloppa Choppa from Lake Burley Griffin Scouts Group. There is also a Little Sirius Cup awarded since the 1960s when there was an increase in small boats. Pickledoo from 1st Bayview Scouts won this year.

The Commodore's Cup is awarded to the Group that achieves the highest overall point score for all events, and is named after Ken Hebblewhite who was the Commodore of the Regatta in 1973.

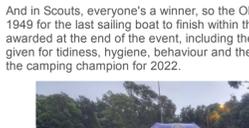


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This year's winner was 1st Sailors Bay.

Since 1986, the Sirius Shield has been presented for overall sailing points. The Lake Ginninderra Group prevailed in 2022.

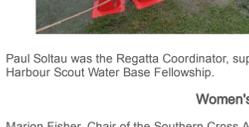
And in Scouts, everyone's a winner, so the Old Paddle Trophy has been presented since 1949 for the last sailing boat to finish within the allocated time. A further 17 trophies are awarded at the end of the event, including the Wal Pilz Trophy for campcraft, with credit given for tidiness, hygiene, behaviour and the creativity of gateways. Epping Scouts were the camping champion for 2022.



Paul Soltau was the Regatta Coordinator, supported by Chris Walster from the North Harbour Scout Water Base Fellowship.

#### Women's Business

Marion Fisher, Chair of the Southern Cross Adventurous Activities Fellowship, has launched a program to support and enable adult women members of both Scouts and Girl Guides to develop their vertical skills, focused on abseiling, in an all-female environment.



It has proved to be a popular initiative, with plenty of members joining the dedicated Facebook group.

The first event was held in November 2021 and had a fantastic response. It involved initial online meetings to complete the training followed by practical sessions to test out new-found skills.

The second of these events, led by Marion, will be an Abseiling Day on Sunday 10 April in Engadine, running from the Noorumba Guide Camp.

Participants lauded the concept and initiative, giving high praise to Marion in the feedback.

"It was such a collegial atmosphere"

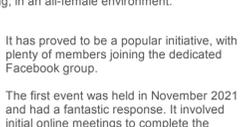
"I had so much fun"

"It was nice to learn in our own way"

The idea for the concept was drawn from practical experience but it is also supported by academic research into the gendered curriculum of many outdoors or adventurous activities.

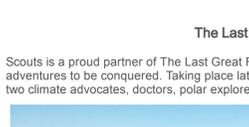
Analysis of motivations to participate in outdoors recreation has long differed between genders, with traits such as the degree of competitiveness and the perceived psychological safety impacting the level to which women are willing to join mixed environments.

Congratulations to Marion for such a successful initiative.



#### The Last Great First

Scouts is a proud partner of The Last Great First, one of the world's last amazing adventures to be conquered. Taking place later in 2022, we'll be following the footsteps of two climate advocates, doctors, polar explorers and former Scouts!



Starting in October 2022, [Gareth Andrews](#) and [Richard Stephenson](#), will set off to ski 2600km, pulling their 200kg sleds with all their supplies, coast to coast across Antarctica. If successful, approximately 110 days later they would have achieved "The Last Great First" and provide scientists with a unique dataset to help to address climate change. All Scouts across Australia will be encouraged to create their own adventures, with unique badges, woggles and scarves already designed, to be earned.

This is a great opportunity for Fellowship members to create themed activities and events for the Scout Groups they support. Find out more [here](#).

#### The Air Activity Centre turns 50!

The Scouts NSW Air Activity Centre based at Camden Airport has been providing Scouts and Girl Guides with safe and fun aviation experiences since 1972.

2022 celebrates 50 years of air activities at Camden Airport.



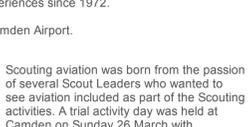
Scouting aviation was born from the passion of several Scout Leaders who wanted to see aviation included as part of the Scouting activities. A trial activity day was held at Camden on Sunday 26 March with approximately 40 Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers, Leaders and parents from the recently re-formed Manly-Warringah Scout Unit.

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Two other aircraft were borrowed for the first day - a privately owned Piper Tri-pacer and a Cessna 150 (VH-KPO).

After a hugely successful launch, it was decided to set up a formal Air Activity Centre at Camden. Since then, Scouts learning to fly at Camden have gone onto successful aviation careers with Qantas, Virgin Australia, the Royal Australian Air Force and many other international airlines.



This year, there are two special events taking place, which Fellowship members are invited to join.

There is a Gala dinner at BPSC on Saturday 28 May 2022 and a Special Air Activity Day at Camden on Sunday 5 June 2022.

Simply email [airactivities.marketing@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:airactivities.marketing@nsw.scouts.com.au) if you'd like to find out more.

#### Calendar

[Click here to view the Events Calendar](#)

- 22 May: Scout Fellowship AGM
- 25-26 June: State Commissioner Support & Development Conference
- 16 July: Annual General Meeting for Scouts NSW
- 5-7 August: NSW State Rally
- 26-28 August: SIA Camp
- 16-18 September: Kaleidoscope
- 28-30 October: Great SCOUTdoors
- 27 Dec-10 Jan: Scouts KISC Branch Friendship Tour

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