

TO: Fellowship Members
CC: DCCs, RCs, SCs

Fellowship Newsletter: Arts & Culture

Dear Scouting friends,

Although Scouts may be best-known for outdoor adventures, there's also a thriving cultural side to our Movement. This newsletter we'll shine a spotlight on it, with a foreword by Adele Lockman, State Leader- Arts & Literature.

We'll also find out about the recent and upcoming Gang Shows around NSW, learn about the Entertainment & Technology Scout Fellowship - and salute a legend of the Cumberland Gang Show for his dedication over a lifetime.

We hope you enjoy this special edition for culture cultures!



Welcome from Adele Lockman

There's something inexplicably magical about the arts and literature. Diving into this realm provides individuals with an opportunity to express themselves in creative and innovative ways. My passion for the creative and performing arts has seen me work as a visual arts teacher and volunteer as an Assistant Production Director for Cumberland Gang Show, where I have had the opportunity to witness firsthand the value arts and literature has on growing and maturing individuals. I believe quality Scouting happens when we emphasise the growth of a Scout in all areas of life – we are more than just an outdoor recreational activity.

As State Leader – Arts and Literature, my goal is to better engage and expose our youth and adult members to the endless possibilities when tapping into the creative and literary arts. For the person who struggles to communicate or express themselves, finding the form/medium that assists and directs them is a great reward that can come from exploring arts and literature.

I strongly encourage you all to take the opportunity to not only support your local Gang Shows by attending a performance, but to consider what you could offer by volunteering your time with them? You may have skills in painting (set design could be for you), creative writing (why not write some songs/comedy skits) or sewing (helping make costumes is always needed) to name a few. There are many skills you likely already possess that could be utilised to not only support your local Gang Show but taught to the next generation.

The Special Interest Areas (SIA) Team is currently organising a **State Camp** focussed on assisting youth in developing SIA projects. Do you have a skill you'd like to pass on to our youth? We are looking for volunteers to run workshops in a range of areas at the camp. For example, a craft like knitting, crochet, painting, sculpture, or creative writing. You may have skills in the other SIAs such as STEM, environment/sustainability, or a sport. If you have a skill you'd like to turn into an activity, please contact Cecilia Jackson (State Commissioner–Special Interest Areas) Cecilia.Jackson@nsw.scouts.nsw.edu.au.

The idea of 'succession planning' and 'skill building' can be utilised at Group levels as well, so I implore you to consider what skills you may have in 'Arts and Literature', and how could use them to support our Scouting family?

Yours in Scouting,
Adele Lockman
State Leader – Arts and Literature



Gang Shows underway

Congratulations to the Gang in Albury for having been first with the shows this year and for getting in the local **paper!** With a theme of "I'm A Cast Member, Get Me Out of Here!" this annual variety show featured the protagonists being trapped online after clicking on internet pop-up ads. Ninety-five per cent of the show was original content written by the children performing it on stage and working behind the scenes, showcasing the amazing creativity of Scouts.

Next up with the Gang Shows are Kirrawee (5, 6, 8 & 9 July), Cumberland (6, 8, 9 & 10 July), Central Coast (7, 8 & 9 July), Hornsby (8, 9, 10, 13, 15 & 16 July) and Korimul (9, 10 & 11 September). Find out all the details and book [here](#).

A special shout out goes to the six Scout Fellowships in NSW actively supporting Gang Shows - with the Kirrawee Gang Show Scout Fellowship actually running its entire show!

Pictured - The Albury Gang Show (credit: James Wiltshire, The Border Mail)



Entertainment & Technology Scout Fellowship



The Entertainment & Technology (ET) Scout Fellowship was formed less than a year ago to support major events for Scouts Australia and to provide opportunities in the Special Interest Areas (SIAs) of the youth program. The Fellowship assisted at Victoria's VicJam 2021 jamboree with its New Year's Eve fireworks and will take its traditional place at this month's Scouts NSW Branch Council AGM where it handles the audiovisuals. The founding members of the ET Scout Fellowship have been supporting our major events since 2010, as well as helping Scouts achieve their peak awards through the development of new skills. Through this, they have also been instrumental in assisting some of our young adults to start their own careers and businesses in the entertainment industry.

ET is a young Scout Fellowship with a good smattering of Rovers and under-30s learning and applying new skills in sound and lighting, photography and videography, live audio and video broadcasting, and pyrotechnics. If you would like the ET Scout Fellowship to assist your next major event or are interested in finding out what other opportunities the Fellowship has to offer, head over to www.etsf.org.au or contact chair David Jacobs or secretary Liam Painter at enquiries@etsf.org.au



Resilience, responsibility & Scout Fellowship – by Malcolm Wilson (State Commissioner Fellowship, & Chair - State Scout Fellowship Council)



Scouting prides itself on developing resilience in its young people. In the beginning, back in Edwardian England, resilience was about being physically strong and mentally active, and all the Scouting publications pushed this. Today, with our higher levels of comfort and education, we focus more on being mentally strong and physically active.

What is mental strength? Obviously, it's about avoiding self-harm and harming others. It's also about making tough decisions and, in many cases, being able to make a decision, full stop! It's about using education and understanding to take a stand on important social issues – harnessing those lessons taught at school and beyond to analyse issues and take principled positions. It's about contributing to a better society.

As adults in Fellowship, what motivates us is assisting those younger to develop life skills. When I was a Scout it was the hard skills that mattered – becoming proficient in technical ways (that sadly diminish with age). Today, it's more about the soft skills: empathy, fairness, open communication, trust, honesty, decency – or simply being nice – these are the skills that fashion how successful we will be in our working lives or as parents. As we grow older, we get wiser with the soft skills, and as Fellowship members we become better equipped to counsel those younger than us.

A hundred years ago, Scouts were taught to be obedient. Today, we encourage freedom of thought, which is not so easy. Free thinking is fine, but when tempered with social responsibility, decisions on vaping, defaming others, cutting down trees, shooting animals and polluting the immediate environment with cigarette smoke and diesel fumes become very real. In the past, Scouts were instructed to behave in particular ways, but now they will take their cues from the examples of others and their own set of values – from a much younger age and probably with better outcomes.

So where do we get these cues? I'll simply suggest that we look back to those who have been influential in our own lives – a parent, bestie, teacher, Scout Leader – and ask, how, and why? In modelling our leadership on what these people before us did well, and with more than a nod to what motivates young people today, let's apply the techniques and ideas that we know influenced our development, using whatever skills we can muster. By focusing on the individual, we will grow our Units, and by encouraging a fellowship of adult role models we can grow Scouting in numbers and influence. Being an active participant is essential.

Gone Home – vale Tony Brown

We are saddened to hear of the passing of a stalwart of the Cumberland Gang Show, Tony Brown. Dr Robert Lang (Group Leader, and Producer/Director of this Gang Show) writes: "Tony was a man of many talents and a strong supporter of Scouting. I first met Tony over forty years ago when he started helping in our set construction team. He went on to make an outstanding contribution to the show as stage manager and technical director from 1984, a role he held until 2001, coordinating all the technical backstage elements of the show. He was with the show for twenty remarkable years. In particular there were huge challenges to be overcome as we moved into Riverside Theatre at Parramatta in 1988. Tony forged ahead and pioneered new ways to work backstage as we introduced new stage boxes, new staging techniques, learnt how to use a fly tower and paint 15m wide backdrops. Tony also took the Gang Shows on tours to regional areas in the late 80's and early 90's, to Tamworth and Orange, giving local kids the opportunity to be involved in performing.

However, every performance has a finale, every show has a final curtain, and one should not mourn the closing, but celebrate and applaud the artist who has made it such a great show. In Tony's case, he made an enormous impact to many young people's lives and for that remarkable run he deserves every accolade."

Pictured - Tony Brown and the stage crew 1989 (Tony circled)



Keep in touch

Thank you for your ongoing support of Scouting - and please let us know what you'd like to read about in future newsletters by emailing communications@nsw.scouts.com.au.

Don't forget to stay in touch with news via our **dedicated Fellowship webpage**.

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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