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16 November 2022

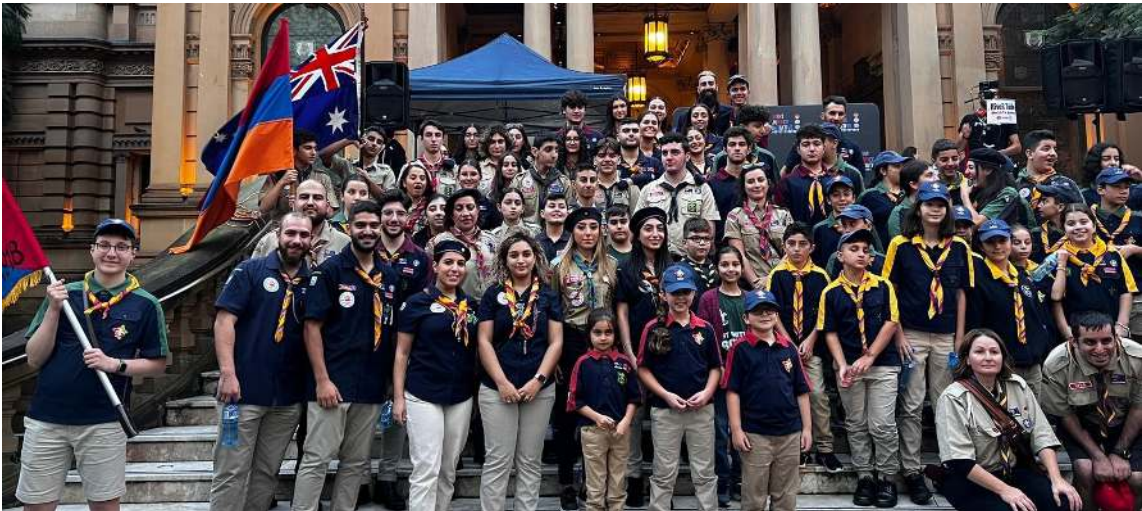
Keep The Faith

Dear Leaders and Supporters,

Living in Australia means that we can celebrate diversity and inclusion – at work, in school and in our Scouting community.

Did you know that some of our Scout Groups in NSW are unique because they mix Scouting with their cultural or spiritual backgrounds? For example, within Scouts you'll discover thriving Groups bringing together respectively faith and beliefs from Muslim, Vietnamese, Christian, Armenian, Buddhist, and Coptic communities, to mention a few.

One of these – the *Homenetmen Antranig Scouts* - are members of the global Homenetmen Movement – a pan-Armenian diaspora organisation, devoted for over the past 50 years to sporting and Scouting activities. You can find out more about their origins and activities [here](#).



Pictured: *Homenetmen Antranig Scouts at Sydney Town Hall*

Another of these Groups - the *Buddha's Light International Association (BLIA)*- have Scout Groups across Australia and the world. Earlier this year the BLIA Scouts held an investiture ceremony for three new Leaders and 35 youth members at the Nan Tien temple near Wollongong – one of the largest Buddhist temples in the southern hemisphere (*pictured*).



The BLIA Scouts also took a group to the Alpine Activity Centre – our first group of the 2022 ski season. Read about their trip (and how for many it was the first time they saw snow) [here](#).



Meanwhile, *Muslim Scouts Australia* have numerous Groups across Australia. Over the years I've had the privilege to attend several of their events, including for Ramadan and Iftar (organised in conjunction with the Islamic Charity Projects Association) and Mawlid Concert – you can find out more [here](#).



I wish all our diverse Groups a harmonious and happy year ahead, full of adventure and activities.

Yours in Scouting,

Neville Tomkins OAM JP
Chief Commissioner
Scouts Australia (NSW Branch)

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, CEO, State Commissioner (Youth Protection & Issues Management) or the Manager of Safeguarding Youth, Issues Management and Research at the NSW State Service Centre. To make a report you may use the [online youth protection form](#), call 9735 9000 or email YouthProtectionTeam@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.

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