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14 December 2022

Peaks & Troughs

Dear Leaders and Supporters,

Over the past two years, we have certainly been through the troughs - however now the peaks are firmly in sight.

The past 12 months have seen us scale pinnacles in Scouts as we've re-engaged with each other through our extensive program of adventurous activities. From Region Camps and Jamborettes to major events such as ScoutHike, Dragon Skin and the aptly-themed "Don't Look Back" State Rally, our Scouting community was thrilled to get together again in the great outdoors to share experiences and create new memories.



Heading high into the hills, in July we hosted our Scouts Ambassadors, Drs Gareth Andrews and Richard Stephenson, for a final training session in the Snowy Mountains, before they set off for the icy plains of Antarctica to attempt the **longest ever unsupported ski crossing of Antarctica** (2,023km). Our Scouts were able to learn the art of snowcraft from these intrepid explorers, as well as having the opportunity to hone these skills at a State Alpine School in August.

Reaching for the skies, literally, in June we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Air Activity Centre with an open day for Scouts and the local community. They also run regular activity days at the Camden Airport for Scouts, Venturer Scouts, Rover Scouts and event Leaders & Helpers, as well as scheduled regional activity days. [Click here to read more.](#)



Back on terra firma, mid-year we re-launched our Gang Shows with entertaining and educational performances across the State. This was complemented by the Scouts NSW float at Mardis Gras earlier in the year, showcasing the vibrant eclecticism of our Scouting movement.

We were also fortunate to be able to honour our peak award recipients – for the Queen's Scout Award and Baden-Powell Award – at special events held at NSW Government House.

These Queen's Scout recipients will be some of the last to be honoured with this award in the world, as sadly in September we mourned the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of State of the Commonwealth of Australia, and the Royal Patron of Scouts Australia.



We have experienced both highs and lows throughout the year – hopefully what waits over the horizon for us all next year is only positive though.

So, I wish you all, and your families, a happy festive season - and anticipate that 2023 will see Scouts soar to new heights due to the work of all our dedicated volunteers, supported by our equally dedicated staff. I thank each of you enormously for your contributions over the past 12 months.

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.

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