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24 January 2022

A New Horizon

Dear Leaders and Supporters,

Welcome back to another year of Scouting – and it's shaping up to be a big one, packed with many events and activities over the horizon.

Corroboree

I recently had the joy of attending the Corroboree Camp 2023 held at Dungog Showground in the Hunter Valley, from the 18th to 22nd January, along with Deputy Chief Commissioner – Operations, Greg Barnier, Region Commissioner Steve Fernie and CEO Carolyn Campbell.

This five-day Scout camp was full of fun, challenging bases and exciting activities, as well as a bivouac overnight hike, where over 500 Scouts and 100 Leaders brought a day pack, small tarp and poles to sleep in a 'hutchie'. It was a great get-together for Scouts from across the State, and also generated positive publicity for Scouts, that will be sure to attract new Members. My sincere thanks go to the organisers, Bruce Leverton and his Team, and all attendees for their enthusiasm and energy for the event.



Antarctica 2023

Further afield, our intrepid Scouts Ambassadors and polar explorers, Doctors Gareth Andrews and Richard Stephenson, have just achieved a phenomenal unsupported ski expedition in Antarctica! It took them 66 gruelling days to traverse 1,400km from the North of Berkner Island, on the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole, for long stretches battling sastrugi (features formed by erosion of snow by wind). They must have been incredibly happy to see the sun rise over the horizon on that final day, of a feat that tested the limits of human endurance.

On their way they collected crucial climate data for the Scientists at the Australian Antarctic Division supported by the Antarctic Science Foundation to help further understand Climate Change and protect our planet. Take a bow, Gareth and Richard, and we look forward to hearing more about their expedition upon their return. In the meantime, you can follow their incredible journey [here](#) and [listen here](#) to this New Year's greeting they recorded from on the ice, especially for Scouts across the world!



70 year Long Service Award

Finally, I would like to pay homage to another inspirational member of our community - Betty Truscott, who late last year, received a 70 year Long Service Award. Betty is a force of nature, having volunteered with Scouts since 1953 (when Robert Menzies was still our Prime Minister in Australia!). Thank you for your self-less service - B-R-A-V-O-O Betty!



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

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