

March 2023

TO: Fellowship Members  
CC: DCCs, RGS, SCs

**Spotlight on Cataract & Events State Scout Fellowship**

Dear Scouting friends,

This edition of *Fellowship News* we focus on the Cataract & Events State Scout Fellowship, who give so generously of their time and energy to help upkeep the Cataract Activity Centre and to assist with catering and logistics at large events held there and elsewhere.

We'll hear from our guest editor, David Miller – Engagement Manager at Cataract Activity Centre – on their recent initiatives, and also from Daniel Boland – State Commissioner for Growth & Retention - on the hive of activity that the Cataract & Events State Scout Fellowship is.

There's also a snapshot of what the various Fellowships are currently involved in, from Malcolm Wilson - State Commissioner for Fellowship – who penned this update before setting off to go trekking in Nepal!

**Welcome from David Miller - Engagement Manager, Cataract Activity Centre**

For those of you that haven't been out to Cataract Activity Centre recently, you may be surprised at the many things happening here. We have some new activities on order, with a horizontal bungee and bubble soccer arena soon to appear (based in the activity sheds and providing a great wet weather alternative activity).

We're also getting a basketball and netball court line marked on site 8, and with new rings on order this will be all set up and ready to go later this month. We are also eagerly awaiting completion of the site 8 leaders and teacher en-suited accommodation, which should be available for bookings shortly.

We will also get a hand over soon of a unique project that our local Fellowship has undertaken in building a 'blindfold challenge' to add to the range of activities on offer.

Then of course, there are some major events in the pipeline, which could not possibly take place without Fellowship involvement. These include Cuboree 2023 (with the theme 'Explore the World') as well as the State Rally and Greater Western Sydney Jamboree. The Fellowship is invaluable to us here at Cataract Activity Centre so we thank all their volunteers and we look forward to working with them closely to bring these events to life for the benefit of our wider Scouting community.

Yours in Scouting,  
**David Miller**  
*Engagement Manager, Cataract Activity Centre*



**Update on Cataract & Events State Scout Fellowship from Daniel Boland – State Commissioner Growth & Retention**

Have you ever wondered who arranges the challenging tasks behind the scenes at many NSW Scouts major events before they happen - from catering services to trucking in equipment?

This year's Cuboree in September, taking place at Cataract Activity Centre, will be supported by up to thirty-five volunteer members donating their time and skills to make key elements work when required without fuss or bother. They will be helping to have the infrastructure needed all onsite and operational before the camp even begins.

This team of volunteers doesn't do day-to-day maintenance of the grounds or general housekeeping requirements there. Instead, they often help to get the site ready for camp when required and pick a service project to undertake. The most recent project undertaken was fixing and making the "Blind Fold Maze" - a free activity for all to use again and again.

*"This enterprising Fellowship can turn its hand to any manner of tasks requiring complex infrastructure and forward planning... it's a 'can do' group of members with practical experience in running major scouting activities"* (as the Guide to Scout Fellowship in NSW describes this group).



Since 2010 they have provided electrical, plumbing and infrastructure works to Cataract for major events that occur such as a Jamboree or Cuboree, and this is all done as a volunteer group.

The large shed and the containers just inside the entrance to Cataract Activity Centre is the physical site and home for the Fellowship. With ten new members joining this year, the crew has sleeping accommodation available for weekend working bees, and longer major events.

They meet every month on site and at NSW Branch gala dinners, held at Baden-Powell Activity Centre. The Cataract & Events State Scout Fellowship is always there behind the scenes, preparing, cooking and cleaning up.

So, say hello next time and thank them for the consistently high standard of service that would do any commercial service organisation proud. Our sincere thanks go to this group of volunteers - it's great to know we are in such good hands behind the frontlines.

If you are interested in joining or helping the Fellowship, they can be contacted at [cataracteventstatescoutfellowship@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:cataracteventstatescoutfellowship@nsw.scouts.com.au)



**Round up of the NSW Scout Fellowship by Malcolm Wilson - State Commissioner Fellowship, & Chair - State Scout Fellowship Council**

I was recently asked what Fellowships do to assist the Youth Program. Well let me tell you! Scout Fellowship is absolutely committed to supporting youth activities - we do that in spades, and our members gain great enjoyment from it. We also have a mission to glean from each other, facilitated by social events. Let's embark on a quick journey around our other Fellowships to find out what they are doing!

**Activity centres and bases**

- The Gamarada SF maintains the Granville Activity Centre as HQ for the State Scout Fellowship Council and all 26 Scout Fellowships spread across the state.
- Ingleside Environment Centre SF helps with the upkeep of the Sydney North Region camp
- Shoalhaven SF helps maintain Bangalee Scout Camp near Nowra.
- South Coast and Tablelands SF assists with maintenance at the Korrahill Environment Centre north of Wollongong
- North Harbour Scout Water Base SF maintains and operates from its boatshed in Balgowlah, near Manly.

**Major activities**

- Waratah Activity SF facilitates Greater Western Sydney's Region Venturer Scout camp Waratah.
- Southern Cross Adventurous Activities SF runs the monthly RockSchool with the Girl Guides at Woronora south of Sydney, with an emphasis on safe abseiling pitched specifically to the needs of participants.
- Kirrawee Gang Show SF runs the biennial Kirrawee Gang Show for South Metropolitan Region and maintains two storage facilities – it is one of six Fellowships closely associated with our various Gang Shows across NSW.
- North Harbour Scout Water Base SF runs the annual Sirius Cup Regatta at Balmoral Beach – the largest Scout regatta in the state.



**Assistance to Regions**

Five Regions support Fellowships that have a broad focus – Hume, Hunter and Coastal, North West, South Coast and Tablelands and The Golden West. These five Fellowships assist their Regions with myriad activities – Jamboree of the Air and Jamboree of the Internet in Hume Region being just one example.

**Assistance to Districts and Scout Groups**

A number of Fellowships are closely aligned with Scout Groups and Districts –

- Bach Hop Sydney SF directly assists Vietnamese Australian Scouts at 2nd Bankstown and 1st Canley Heights
- Berowra SF assists 1st Berowra Scout Group and beyond
- Blue Mountains SF has its focus in the mountains townships west of Sydney
- Hawkesbury Black Horse SF is based in Richmond
- Hornsby SF assists Benowie District in Sydney North Region
- NSW Lone SF is an extension of the NSW Lone Scouts Group
- Pinnaroo SF meets at 1st Westmead and assists a variety of Scouting events in and beyond Western Sydney.

**Current and former Rover Scouts**

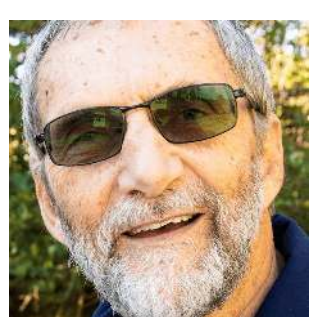
Three Fellowships have strong Rover representation.

- Club SF maintains links between former Rovers, principally in areas west of Sydney;
- Entertainment & Technology SF draws on the skills of its young adults to provide sound and lighting, audio visual broadcasting and pyrotechnic displays at major Scouting events, both in NSW and interstate
- Wallumetta SF draws mainly from ex-Rovers in Sydney North Region to provide service and to socialise, just enjoying the company of kindred spirits.

So here – in a nutshell – is what our Fellowships are up to, and I have not included all of them. The diversity is amazing. All are eager to apply their skills to assist others. I continue to discover pockets of hidden expertise – the strong interest in engineering and science within the Blue Mountains Scout Fellowship, for example.

Many members of Scout Fellowship, indeed the majority, hold primary appointments elsewhere in Scouting. As a network these Fellowship members are a great resource. My advice is to get to know your local Fellowships – seek them out, find out what they are doing, and perhaps join yourself. You only have to be 18 years of age or above to get involved.

Yours in Scouting,  
**Malcolm Wilson**  
*State Commissioner Fellowship, & Chair - State Scout Fellowship Council*



**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](mailto: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, CEO, State Commissioner (Youth Protection & Issues Management) or the Manager of Safeguarding Youth, CEO, State Commissioner 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](mailto: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 Service Centre.

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