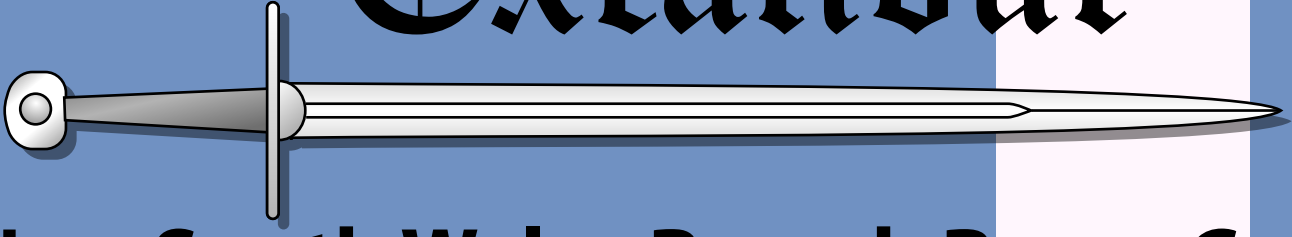


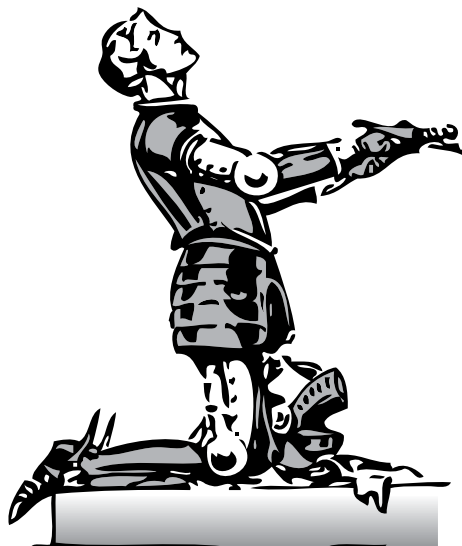
# Excalibur



**New South Wales Branch Rover Council**

**2007 -2008**





## Editorial

Excalibur, another chapter in the story of Roving in New South Wales

Why Excalibur? In June 1971 Excalibur was published as a Branch Rover Magazine. Stan Bales, Branch Commissioner for Rovers at the time said;

“The Rover section will be better served with our own magazine to keep us all ‘In Touch’ and informed of the activities that are available for us to join in.”

I hope that this our Year Book ‘Excalibur’ will be a successful publication that Rovers can be informed of all the activities that are available. Thanks must go to Steve Wallace for getting all the reports to me so this could be put together in time for the Conference, Macarthur Anglican School for doing the printing free of charge and also Lee-Michelle for all her grammar knowledge

Kent Palmer



# New South Wales Rovers

*Endless Opportunities*



## **New South Wales Rover Council Executive**

President	Adam Wakeling	1st Gosford Rover Crew
Vice President	Ben Michaels	Mona Vale Rover Crew
Secretary	Stephen Wallace	1st Blaxland Rover Crew "Kalangadoo"
Treasurer	Patrick Twining	2nd Gymea Rover Crew
Activities Officer	Greg Pearce	1st Austinmer Rover Crew
Training Officer	Phil Richards	Korrahill Rover Crew
PR & Marketing Officer	Kent Palmer	Razorback Rover Crew
Venturer Liaison Officer	Julia Simpson	1st Gosford Rover Crew
Internet Officers	Matthew Lee	1st Blaxland Rover Crew 'Kalangadoo'
	Matthew Riley	Shoalhaven Rover Crew
Service Co-Ordinator	Garath Walsh	Razorback Rover Crew
	Amy Studdert	Korrahill Rover Crew
Rover Scout Motorsport	Brendon Wrigley	2nd Baulkham Hills Rover Crew
Aussiemoot Chairman	Damien Ryan	Narwee Rover Crew
Aussiemoot Bar	Cindy Price	2nd Baulkham Hills Rover Crew
NSW Contingent Leader	Katie McGuigan	Mona Vale Rover Crew

## **Commissioners & Advisers**

State Commissioner (Rovers)	Jeff Rose
Internet Adviser	Mark Absalom
PR & Marketing Adviser	Nick Buchner
Training Adviser	Jeff Hook

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What an exciting year 2007/08 has been for NSW Rovers. I'm very proud to have been a part of it and to be at the helm of this great state has been an honour. I sure know that I'll cherish all the memories and lessons I have learnt over the year.

At the start of the year, as everyone does, I sat down and worked out my goals for the year - many of them little ones and a few grand scale ideas for revolutionising how Rover governance works in NSW. Naturally, I reached all the little goals that I set. Those that I didn't reach were my grand scale ones, which may have been because I was over zealous in what I could achieve in a year.

One of the challenges we faced as a council this year was with our strategic planning and the realisation of our goals. Due to the preoccupation with running a successful National Moot the 2007/08 council couldn't implement any grand scale changes. However we did have the inaugural SPEW (Strategic Planning & Educational Weekend), where the whole BRC Exec and RRC Chairs went away for a weekend armed with ideas as to how we can better NSW Rovers for the year that lay ahead of us. It pleases me, looking back at the outcomes of that weekend, that we have checked the majority of the boxes and for those that remain unchecked, the processes are well underway for their completion.

As I mentioned above, the majority of the last Roving year was focused on the successful planning and running of Aussiemoot, the 17th Australian Rover Moot. A huge thankyou must be extended to Dink and his expert team, for without them, Aussiemoot would not have run. They worked tirelessly over the past four years to have the moot up and running, despite seeming to run into brick walls wherever they

## Adam Wakeling President



turned as the finish line approached. The Rovers of NSW at various different levels aided the Moot Executive in executing the Moot, and it was good to see every one band together after many sketchy moments.

Despite the National moot being at the fore front of everyone's mind for the duration of the year it still didn't stop the game of Rovers from playing out. This year saw a full 4-course meal of events happen with:

- Bush Dance – Blaxland 'Kalangadoo' Rovers led by Mel and Kel
- 'A Wiggly' Snow Moot – Nick Wolf and team
- Branch 'Media' Moot – Amy Warwick and team
- Branch 'Masquerade' Ball - Razorback Rovers led by Sam O'Brien

On top of these social events NSW Rovers held true to our motto of 'SERVICE' and had three annual service projects run:

- St. Georges Day – Feast day for St. George, Patron Saint of Scouting and in particular Rovers.
- ANZAC Day – Need I explain the most remembered day in Australian History
- Hike For Hunger (H4H) Where Rovers collect and donate cans and other non-perishable food stuffs for the Wesley Mission.

During the year it's great to see that all the Regions were organising a full program with the majority of the 10 Regions running at least one major event. Special mention must go to Hume RRC for running 'Service Moot'. It's always good when Rovers can mix hard work in with playing hard, as one of my lasting memories of Rovers will be that after a hard days work they can party the night away and still back up the next day to put their back into more hard work.

Congratulations to those Rovers who after years of hard work obtained the Baden Powell Scout Award. I'm lead to believe that there were five recipients in the 2007/08 year. I would also like to Congratulate the recipients of the Stan Bales Service Award, Lodge Baden Powell Award and Quality Roving Award for their dedicated service to the Rover Section.

For me personally the past year has been a challenging one. I could say that it's been an easygoing year, but that would be lying and I'm not into the fashion of doing that. When I took on the role of BRC President in April last year, my predecessor told me "there's not too many meetings that you have to attend", having heard that I thought... 'Sweet'! Oh how I wished it were like that. Being

a Coastie it has sometimes been trying having an hour's drive into the city, I think that over the year my car has learnt to drive itself to and from Sydney. Going to all these meetings has been a lesson on time management sharing my time between Newcastle for Uni, Central Coast (Work and Life) and Sydney for Rovers. Sadly I think I failed at time management as I dedicated more time to Rovers than I did to Uni. Despite the travel I have enjoyed tackling all the issues that have arisen over the year and leading NSW Rovers into the future.

I would like to thank each and every one of the members of my Exec this year whose tireless work throughout the year has helped

NSW Rovers go from strength to strength, especially for having my back on many occasions when I couldn't be at meetings or had other reasons I couldn't deal with an issue. A huge thank you as well, to Steve Wallace for without Steve's help organising me, I don't know what mess I would be in at the moment - especially reminding me when reports are due. Everyone put in a top effort this year and I hope that this council continues to push the boundaries for many years to come.

To the new BRC Executive, may the coming year be as fun and fulfilling as my many years on the BRC and in Rover governance have been. Remember, don't get bogged down in the politics and continue to play the game. Talk is cheap, your actions will speak louder than any words do.

Just a few parting notes. We are all part of the greatest section, of the greatest branch of the greatest movement ever to grace this fine planet. It is now your turn to make something out your eight years in Rovers. Remember that ROVERS is your time to Showcase all the skills that you have learnt over the years. I implore every Rover in New South Wales to strive for their best in all aspects of your life. Turn off the TV and get out and about every chance that you have. Get involved. Together strive for a better future. Strive to make NSW ROVERS the Branch that every other Branch is envious of. You have the skills, now you have the Power and opportunity to show everyone what NSW ROVERS is really made of!

## Ben Michaels Vice President



G'day and what a fantastic year of roving we have had, celebrating 90 years of Rovers, 100 years of scouting, Aussiemoot, great service events, and good old fashion FUN!

Its been terrific to be a part of the team

that has worked so hard this last year. We had a real busy one with Aussiemoot taking over the majority of our thoughts and minds, and with last minute changes and a whole heap of stress on the aussiemoot staff, I would like to thank them all for there time and efforts over the past 4 years to run what has been the event of my life!

During this past year our relations between city and country crews has improved and we are seeing them coming to more events and to BRC meetings which is absolutely fantastic.

I am still impressed at what we do as a state each year, and to have run a national moot, as well as our continued support of Dragonskin, Hike for Hunger, Anzac Day Marches, St Georges day, all our region moots, Lord Mayors Picnic and all the other service and adventurous activities we have achieved, it is truly impressive and we all deserve a big round of applause for the effort we all put in.

The year was busy for me too, with suddenly deciding to go to the UK and Europe, which is where I currently am writing this, and work and running training courses for Sydney North, whilst fulfilling this role as Vice President, however it has been very rewarding and has taught me so much about so many things I cant explain it all here. It was also my last chance to be part of the council sides of rovers and I can say that I have achieved everything I wanted to do in rovers, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity.

I look forward to seeing you all again in a few months or at least next year when I return from my trip, and otherwise I wish you all the best for the future, I know NSW Rovers is just going to get bigger and stronger, as that is what we are constantly working towards, but never ever ever forget, to stop having the best time of your life, otherwise your doing the wrong thing!

Lots of Hugs to all of NSW.



## Steve Wallace Secretary

Phew... what a year it has been.

It's quite scary for me to actually have to write a report that deals with more than we received this, sent that and get your reports in, but here we go...

My goal for this year was to take on more of the administration side of running a Branch Rover Council. The idea behind this was to free up the rest of the executive to concentrate on the job at hand moving rovers forward and not getting bogged down in the paperwork. To a reasonable degree, this was effective and I feel that I made a significant contribution to this year's council.

The year started for me with the organisation of the BRC Handover / Goalsetting meeting known as the "Strategic Planning and Education Weekend" or SPEW for short. This weekend event was held at the Camp Wyndeyre Activity Centre in Galston with the BRC Executive and the Region Chairs and was a great weekend. It was great to have the Region Chairs present as it really felt that we were one team working together instead of 11 different odd councils.

After the first meeting in June last year, we decided to make an effort to significantly reduce the amount of paper generated for a BRC Meeting. This led to us displaying a powerpoint agenda on the screen in the office. This is something that worked well and I recommend to the new BRC to adopt.

I would have to say that the bane of my time in office would have to be the collection and collation of reports. Many an executive member, commissioner or region chair has opened their email this year to find something from me demanding to know why I have not yet received their report. I do have to say that it continues to surprise me that a number of people will complain about how long reports take, but will never make the effort to step up and deliver their report in time to be sent out before the meeting. I strongly advise the new executives for Region Councils and the BRC to make the effort next year and get those reports in on time, it makes the secretaries job so much easier and leads to a smoother flowing meeting. A big thanks to everyone who put up with my relentless whinging and carrying on and supported me in the quest for reports.

Another part of my job this year was to develop and reintroduce the Rover Fixture Card and a rover events/communion magazine. Although both have only had a limited distribution this year due to printing and time constraints, both have proven to be great resources and should be firmed up and continued by the new executive. I must thank my Partner-in-Crime on Red, Nick Wolf and our new reporter Amy Warwick for all the work they have done to date.

My final task for the year was not directly related to the Secretary role, but nevertheless has taken a large amount of time. That task was organising the conference side of conference as part of my woodbadge. I can't tell you how it went as, well at the time of writing this report, it hasn't happened yet.

2007 has seen the end of my time in Rover Government at a State level as I turn 26 in December and am starting to dread the boot. I would like to thank everyone I have worked with over my time for their support, advice and kicks in the pants where it was needed. A big thanks goes to the core-exec for this year - McAds, Pat and Benny. It has been a pleasure working with you guys and we make a kick-ass team. Good luck to the new exec and if you ever need a hand, I'm still in Scouting and am just a phone call away.





## Patrick Twining Treasurer

I have once again enjoyed my term as treasurer. This is because the executive was once again an effective and coherent body that performed well together to keep Roving in NSW progressing toward the future, as I'm sure the next will. I will again reaffirm that the replacements for everybody (except me) will have a hard time filling those shoes they are about to don, but the challenge will well be worth the rewards.

As I perform this, my last act as a Rover I am saddened by my sense of loss and grief, and yet heartened in the knowledge that our section, 90 years young, is strong enough to continue for many times more than that in the future!

As I was Treasurer in absentia for a quarter of the year, I must thank most heartily the other members of the exec and especially Adam for picking up my slack. Although I am now officially old, I will help the new treasurer and exec to the best of my ability for as long as they need me.

I thank the BRC for entrusting this role to me for the last 24 months and am hopeful that the job that I have done has been adequate.

I would like to thank and congratulate my colleagues on the BRC and wish the new Exec the best of luck.

## Kent Palmer PR & Marketing Officer

This past year has been an exciting one for NSW rovers with major events, anniversaries and promotions. During the year we celebrated 100 years of Scouting as a movement with a Scouting Sunrise at the Opera House in Sydney and our national moot, Aussiemoot, which was the event that kicked off our 100 years of Scouting in Australia and 90 Years of Roving. To celebrate this year we had a Special Australia Day, region celebration days and the scouting flag being flown on one of our national monuments. We also created new promotional tools and merchandise with the 'i want to be a rover' woggles, rover drink coasters and rover branded clothing. This year we will also see an abundance of Scouting advertising to celebrate our anniversary, through cinemas, buses, radio and television.



During the past year I have had the pleasure of meeting the Governor, Prof. Marie Bashir AC, CVO, at the Scouting Sunrise in August and the Australia Day celebration in January, Celebrating 100 years of Scouting as a movement and within Australia respectively. I was chosen for this honour due to my long and thriving service to Scouting over past 18 years.

Aussiemoot ended 2007 and began 2008 with a bang (9 New Years cheers to be exact!). At this event I assisted with PR, Special Events,



such as the Kick off to the 100 Years of scouting in Australia and 90 years of Roving, producing the onsite newspaper, the daily dribble and helping with the Aussiemoot and NSW Contingent merchandise. We showed Australia and the world what its like to be a New South Welshman!

At the start of my position, new promotional resources', the 'i want to be a rover' woggles and the rover coasters, were introduced. The woggles have been a massive hit with the joeys through to scouts, whereas the coasters haven't taken off so well. This could be due to the scariness of approaching your local bar! Hopefully these will pick up this year, with coasters being spotted around pubs and clubs in NSW. Due to the popularity of the NSW Contingent gear at Aussiemoot, we have decided to keep certain items on as rover merchandise. Lee-Michelle Rowe has put a lot of effort into negotiations and the organisation of this so far and it will be offered to all Australians and those that participated in Aussiemoot from overseas. Available are the Board shorts (\$25), Singlet or t-shirt (\$15), Boxer shorts (\$18), Beach towel (\$25) and headband (\$5). Orders can be placed through emailing [merch@nswrovers.com.au](mailto:merch@nswrovers.com.au). We have the resources', we should use them!

This year, Scouts Australia will also have plenty of advertising going on through such PR stunts as flying the flag on top of the Harbour Bridge in Sydney and advertising campaigns on buses, cinemas, radio and television featuring real scouts, all in the effort to shout Scout to Australia for our anniversary.

Unfortunately with my heavy commitments to Aussiemoot, VOC 1 Commander for Dragon Skin and being a Region President, I was unable to focus all of my attention on my position as PR for BRC, But looking to the future, I hope to complete many more fun and exciting initiatives in the year to come.

Thank you to Adam Wakeling, Lee-Michelle Rowe, Razorback Rovers, Hume Region and State office staff especially Dick Lai, Dianne McDonald and Rosalie Batistoni for your continued support and helpfulness over the previous year, and hopefully in the future. We have some amazing PR opportunities ahead, it's time to get the names of your groups and crews out and about to the media, celebrating 100 years of scouting. Promotions entice new rovers



## Julia Simpson Venturer Liaison

This past year has been an interesting learning curve, as a new person to rovers I jumped into this position with extreme enthusiasm, which may of been sucked dry out of me.

The beginning of the rover year saw me trying to decide what the "VLO" does, this was made easy with support from Ben Michaels I was able to decipher what the position involved and set some goals.

Goals that I had set for the year include:

- Have every region conduct a roventure
- Creation of the try rovers badge/award
- Get all venturer liaison officers to meet
- Create a contact list of all the region's VLO's

I have had two successful venturer Liaison Officer meetings, I consider this a success, even though we did not meet as often as intended, I believe to have met twice considering only one person is attending and they are

travelling from every region, this is a good result. These meetings proved to be a valuable insight into what each region was doing and offered a support network.

Whilst every region has not conducted a roventure, over half of the regions have held positive roventure. I am creating a document (this will be an ongoing project) combing surveys which both the venturers and rovers complete, the information from these surveys will be combined and made public so that each person can collect information on what worked and didn't work for the roventure that they attended (there will be no names or regions documented) This will be a useful tool for future VLO's and event organisers, I am having some trouble getting this project started but I believe that people will soon see the benefit of the survey and the popularity will take off.

I have also attended 3 State Venturer Scout Commissioner Meetings and have learnt about the organisation side to venturers and what goes on to ensure that venturers run smoothly. These meetings have allowed me to network with relevant regional commissioners to ensure that they are happy with their VLO contact and support they are receiving from Rovers.

I would like to thank the voting regions of last year for allowing me to take the position of Venturer Liaison Officer; it has been a real eye opener and has allowed me to experience the "other side" of scouting





## Matthew Lee & Matthew Riley

### Internet Officers

Another year down and another 10,000 new posts!!!!

Matt, Matt and Duckie have had an interesting year in dealing with BRC internet fun and games! Our jobs included:

- Building and maintaining the BRC website
- Forum Moderating
- And monitoring the email systems.

Over the year we have recruited an extra forum moderator to help

us deal with the amount of forum activity over the year, we would like to thank Duckie for helping out in this role, in the future we would recommend for the next internet officers to have such a person in their staff to deal with the ever popular forums.

The numbers for the year for the forums are as follows:-

Rover registration:	154
Posts:	9417
New topics:	723
Personal messages:	1199

Ping Pong:	1477 posts
Count to a million:	Up to 234 over 1836 post

#### Leading Posters

Bron:	2387 Posts
LeMi:	1783 Posts
Duckie:	1664 Posts
Philthebucket:	1543 Posts
Steve:	1353 Posts

The most clicked on forum is general discussion with 36418 views Followed by community announcements with 8217 views

The website has been fixed up as far as the dead links are concerned and work on the crew finder are still undergoing hopeful next year more work on the main website will be undertaken on it.

We would like to thank Steve Wallace and Mark Absalom for being our internet advisers over the year.

Matthew Lee would like to thank everybody in the BRC for all the great 2 years I have had in this role and hope the new officer has as good of time as I did.



# Greg Pearce

## Activities Officer

2007 was again a great year for Rover events in NSW. The events held over the last 12 months were:

- Bushdance run by Blaxland Rover Crew at Luddenham Show Grounds on 2 June;
- Snow Moot run by a committee on 20-22 July;
- Branch (Media) Moot run by a committee of Rovers over the October Long Weekend at Bielany Camp Site on the Upper Colo;
- Branch Ball run by Razorback Rover Crew on 2 February at Campbelltown RSL; and
- NSW BRC Conference and AGM run by South Met Rovers at Heathcoate Scout Camp on 5-6 April.

As with my last report the difficulty this year was actually getting people and crews to tender for events. Once the events were tendered for they were all run successfully. However there was again a culture throughout NSW of people not sticking their hand up and having a go. I again put this down to the vast majority of the state's human resources being utilised in the lead up to Aussiemoot. Hopefully with this event now past my successor will not have to face the problems that I faced in getting people to volunteer to run events.

Once again there was a problem with me not receiving the information that I require from people once a tender was received. Bi-monthly reports were regularly not received by myself in the lead up to a BRC meeting. This

made it hard to report to the meeting where an event was up to in its organisation. Also there lies a problem with people following procedures in sending tenders themselves to me prior to a BRC. I often did not see a tender before the BRC meeting itself. This makes it very hard for me to comment on the thoroughness and accuracy of the tender. I believe that both of these problems could be overcome by a closer relationship between the person in my role and the people running events.

On a personal level my commitment to this role slackened off throughout the year, and I wish to apologise to the BRC for this. Work and other issues seemed to take a large role in my life and I was not able to commit myself to the role as fully as I would have liked, or as fully as I had indicated to the BRC that I would.

I would like to thank the BRC for giving me the opportunity to take on this role over the last 2 years. It has been a great experience and I have made many new and invaluable friendships. I would like to thank April Edwards, Adam Wakling, John Kane and Jeff Rose and everyone on the two executives that I have worked with for their help, friendship and assistance.

I encourage every Rover to get involved in Rover Governance; it is an experience often unique to the section. Finally I would like to offer my assistance and support to whoever takes in this role into the future.



Branch Ball



Branch (Media) Moot



Snow Moot

The Service Portfolio for the NSW BRC had a very productive year, with all the NSW events having large turnouts and had very good outcomes for all involved.

The annual events on the BRC calendar for Service include the St Georges Day Service and ANZAC Day Dawn Service/ March in April, Hike for Hunger in November, Lord Mayor's Picnic in December and the Slamboree in February. It also included a change over in Co-ordinators.

The 2007 year began with a great turnout for the St Georges Day Service, with Rovers turning up from all of the Metropolitan regions and some making their way up from South Coast and Tablelands. There was very positive feedback from all involved about the service and the tradition will be continued in 2008, with some new changes made to the Service.

In the same week, ANZAC Day was celebrated, with many turning up in their uniform to assist Legacy and the RSL with the Dawn Service and to participate in the annual ANZAC Day March.

With a break over the cooler months, Hike for Hunger arrived in November. Although the day wasn't without hiccups and preparation was a little slow to start with, over 5000 items were collected. Sydney North Region were able to collect over 3,000 items and took home the annual shield.

With Aussiemoot in full swing, a mini bus made the trek from Cataract to Government House, with 30 other Rovers waiting for the annual Lord Mayor's Picnic, as part of the Sydney New Year's Eve celebrations. The 2007 Picnic included attendees from NSW Lone Rovers, who are enthusiastic to come along again in 2008.

The 2008 Slamboree is fast approaching and is set to be another

## Gary Walsh & Amy Studdert Service Co-Ordinators



wonderful event for the Calendar and I encourage one and all to get along and to support our Scouts.

My goals for the 2007 year were:

- To make sure that each and every Region and Crew were informed about what events were happening and made sure they had adequate information to attend the Service activity
- To allocate a 'goal' for each activity at hand and reach that goal
- To increase the number of active participants at each activity.
- To ensure each Rover had a positive experience at the activity and encourage them to return in 2008

I endeavoured to make sure all regions in NSW were informed, although geography makes it difficult for some regions to participate in the Branch

service activities, because it is simply too far for them, although they are always welcome to participate and help out where they can.

Efforts were made to email all Metropolitan regions and I encouraged metro-country regions like Hunter and Coastal and South Coast and Tablelands to attend where they could.

There were also active threads on the NSW Rovers.com Forums, to promote the activities through further electronic means and to encourage discussion and proved to be an effective method of communication, because it reaches a large audience and members are able to actively ask questions and receive answers readily.

I made goals for each activity. They were usually centered around attendance or improving collections from the previous year.

I aimed to improve attendance at Hike for Hunger and aimed for a collection of 3,000. The collection

goal was relatively small, because of the small collection allocation at the time. The end collection figure was over 5000, with around 50 turning up in inclement weather also.

I also wanted to match the 2006 attendance for Lord Mayor's Picnic and hope to better it in 2007. The overall attendance in 2007 was close to 50 Rovers, which was a fantastic result and above the 2006 attendance. I also received support from the Aussiemoot committee, who were able to allocate a mini bus for the Picnic, for Aussiemoot participants to go along.

In order for each participant in the activities to have a positive experience, I endeavoured to field all questions and queries, be as flexible as possible and maintain a positive attitude. I also thanked all those that attended, in writing in electronic forms and verbally on the day, as I believe a simple 'thankyou' goes a long way and is appreciated by all.

I felt that 2007 was a productive year for BRC Service. I feel that the only major issues that arose out of the year, were issues surrounding one or two events that were promoted very late, which can be rectified in 2008.

I feel Hike for Hunger seriously needs to be re-viewed at the BRC Conference in 2008. There are many Rovers who feel that the activity has 'run its course' and needs to be replaced. I agree that this could be a positive move for Rovers, but I would also like to maintain the link between NSW Rovers and Wesley Mission.

I also feel that at times there could be a better attendance at BRC Service activities, but a lack of space in personal calendars means that there are Rovers who simply cannot make activities, because they already have further crew and regional activities at hand, let alone personal commitments.

Alternatively, there could be a review of the year and perhaps allocate service activities elsewhere in the calendar or scale down some activities.

If re-elected to the position for the 2008/2009 year, I would like to introduce activities to the BRC Service calendar, that are more specific to the 18-26 age bracket and more suited to the age bracket as well.

I also want to gather feedback from the masses about each activity at the 2008 Conference, as to what activities the general population support and what activities they wish to change.

My goals for 2008/2009 would not alter – I still wish to keep the ambition of raising contributions and attendance numbers.

If not nominated for any other role on the BRC, I will still stand as BRC Service Co-Ordinator in 2008/2009 for re-election.

I extend my thanks to the 2007/2008 BRC and to the Region Chairs for all their support and help. I would also like to thank all of the NSW Rovers that participated and supported the 2007 activities – without your assistance, they would cease to run!

Special thanks also goes to Katie Mc Guigan, Nick Wolf and Phil Richards, who extended additional assistance and advice.

I wish everybody a happy and prosperous 2008 in Scouting.



# Jeff Rose

## State Commissioner (Rov-

For my part, it has been an active 8 months since being appointed as your State Commissioner (Rovers). In reality, it has been a much busier role than my former roles of Rover Adviser and Regional Commissioner (Rovers). I have visited most Regions at least twice in those 8 months, not counting the various events, like Roventures, Moots, investitures and Award presentations that I have been invited to. I suspect that it will continue to be a busy role over the next 12 months.

Firstly, my thanks go to Peter Oliver who acted in the role for the first 4 months of the year. Secondly, I should also express thanks to the Rovers of the State who have had confidence in me to appoint me to the role.

At the start of the year, Leah Bach was awarded the Stan Bales Rover Service Award, and it was a well-deserved nomination. 1<sup>st</sup> Baulkham Hills Rover Crew was also awarded a Quality Roving Award, which was also a worthy nomination.

In the year since the last Annual General Meeting we have awarded the Baden Powell Scout Award to 4 Rovers:

- Joanne Holden of Wagga Wagga Rover Crew
- Robert Ferguson of Coogee Rover Crew
- Aaron Wardle of 1<sup>st</sup> Westmead Rover Crew
- Jacinta Thatcher of NSW Lones

From one Awardee to another, my congratulations go to each of them.

Several more Awards are close to being finalised, or are being reviewed at Region level, and I hope to be able to report of more completed Awards in the next year.

We also had three Rover Advisers honoured with Adult Recognition Awards in the Year. In this regard, thanks and congratulations go to:

- Neil Gleghorn of 1<sup>st</sup> Wallsend Rover Crew (Silver Arrowhead)
- Jenny Wardell of 1<sup>st</sup> Kings Langley Rover Crew (Silver Arrowhead)

- Rodney Baldockof  
Hawkesbury River Rover Crew  
(Certificate of Merit)

The year has seen some significant activities being run by Rovers within the Branch. The year started with the annual service contribution to the Venturer Dragon Skin, followed by St George's Day and ANZAC Day service. We also had a cold (but enjoyable) bush dance, a formal ball, a snow moot and a successful Branch Moot. Many other Region- and Crew-based activities were also held.

The largest event run in the year was the 17<sup>th</sup> Australian Rover Moot (Aussiemoot) at Cataract Scout Park. If running a 14-day moot wasn't enough of a challenge, the Rovers and ex-Rovers involved were forced by circumstances to transfer the event to Cataract from Newington Armoury with only 10 weeks to go, and after some 2 years of planning having been done for the Newington site. Nevertheless, the change was well received by Rovers across the state, and all that I spoke to reported having had a good time. The moot was highlighted by having over 100 Rovers from other countries join us – nearly 25% of the total Moot population, and greater in number than the second-largest Australian contingent (Victoria). The moot presented fantastic opportunities to be involved in the running of a major event. While tempers may have frayed from time to time, and the final outcomes of the moot are still being determined, all that I have spoken to have agreed that it was a worthwhile learning experience. I hope some of that experience can be harvested for other events in the future.

Finally, the state hosted a successful National Rover Council conference at Glenfield.

To the outgoing executive: my thanks for your service over the last year. Particular mention should go to Adam Wakeling, as president, and Steve Wallace, as secretary, who put in many hours of work behind the scenes to keep the lines of communication open between Regions, and with the movement as a whole.



Razorback Rovers at Aussiemoot Opening Ceremony

From an overall population point of view, we are growing again. The total number of Rovers in the state has increased from 662 in January 2007 to 689 in January 2008 – a 4% increase, and approaching the total number we had in January 2006. The biggest growth has been recorded in the Lone Rover Crew (266%), followed by North West Region (100%), Hume Region (30%) and Greater Western Sydney Region (23%). Some regions are still suffering from reductions in membership, and it is important to see what can be done to attract new members in areas like the North Coast (down 75%), Riverina (down 31%), the Golden West (down 19%) and Sydney North (down 10%).

The biggest factors in successful recruitment continue to be programme and PR-related. The Crews that succeed the most in attracting new members (both from Venturers and outside the movement) have an active, dynamic and varied programme (with good Crew cohesion), and have good structures in place for sharing what they are doing with the outside world.

In the coming year of celebration, I hope that many Crews can take advantage of the centenary of Australian Scouting and the 90<sup>th</sup> year of Rovering to undertake fantastic adventures, and create stories that you will live on for years to come.



## **Brendon Wrigley** **Rover Motorsports** **Chairman**

This year RSM focus has building a buggy suitable for competition at interstate events. Unfortunately it wasn't ready for Mudbash but we made the 30 odd hours drive over to South Australia for Sandblast. This event was a perfect 'shakedown' for the buggy and we were quite happy with the performance of the buggy, in fact it was too powerful for the tyres we had, luckily this has now been rectified.

The majority of last years goals were started at least, the maintenance night has now taken precedence over driver training, however we will look to organise this year, hopefully. The HQ has had some improvements and will get more now that the buggy is running and it looks like the Motor moot fund is going to arrive soon. Now that Aussiemoot is over we will be starting to look at running events starting with simple motorkhanas which normal road cars can enter.

The RSM HQ has now had the water reconnected and a toilet installed with further plans to improve this den. Fundraising has been difficult as our main source BBQ at Anaconda fell through, we have still managed to raise funds with an awesome effort at a Bunnings BBQ close to Christmas, and the majority of bills are now paid off.

There are still several things to be done for the year ahead. This year we should look at camp (similar to a moot) but with a different structure and a lot cheaper (hopefully) this will include sessions on maintenance and other car related things of use. Hopefully this will encourage more people to become involved in RSM.

I will be continuing to work closely with RSM NSW and hope that RSM will continue to grow as successful as the 07-08 year. I would personally like to thanks all that have been involved with RSM in the preceding year and hope that you will continue to be a part of the group.



# Cindy Price

## Aussiemoot Bar Manager



Well the moot has been and gone, and another awesome adventure is behind us....

I would like to start by taking this opportunity to thank all members of my team, those from NSW and other states in Australia. We came together on day one and quickly became like a close knit family, bringing to you the Aussiemoot Star Bar, and what a bar it was.

The Aussiemoot bar received lots of positive feedback in at the event and in the weeks following, in relation to our short waiting times and the low cost of drinks. This feedback was warmly welcomed, as a lot of time and effort was put into creating a budget that would allow for low costing drinks and staffing as to create minimum waiting times. I understand that many people paid a lot of money to attend Aussiemoot, especially those from overseas, and that no-one attending would have wanted to spend time waiting in line for a drink.

For those of you that were unable to attend the moot, you have missed a once in a lifetime opportunity , but I do hope that one day you have the opportunity to attend another Australian Moot and experience some of the wonderful aspects that a moot

of this stature provides. But now, down to the facts of the bar:

The drinks were priced as follows:

Soft drink \$1

Light Beer, Wine and Strongbow \$2

Carlton Draught, Corona, Pure Blonde and all spirits \$3

Alcoholic Ices \$4

Number of products sold:

260 cases Carlton Draught

108 cases Pure Blonde

115 cases Corona

5 cases light Beer

74 cases Strongbow Original

32 cases Strongbow Sweet

50 cases Skyy Orange

50 cases Skyy Lime

96 bottles Champagne

36 bottles Chardonnay

36 bottles Cab Sav

13 x 1125ml Scotch

32 x 700ml Tequila

61 x 1000ml and 12 x 700ml Bourbon

90 x 1125ml and 24 x 700ml Vodka

48 x 1125ml and 96 x 700ml Rum

I am still as yet unable to show you the final financial report as I am still awaiting some information from the Aussiemoot finance team via the BRC finance team to ensure all costings have been covered and some financial discrepancies have been sorted out.

I guess in summary the things that worked were:

- Staffing, we had an excellent team Rosters, enabling the bar to run efficiently while allowing staff time to enjoy the moot experience
- The Suppliers used and items for sale allowing for low cost items and efficient re-stock of supplies
- The cost of items
- The bar cards (one we worked out that the hole punch didn't reach the middle row, and changed to plan B, the texta's)
- The operating hours

The things that didn't work well and I would change in the future were:

- The pre-moot finances (there was no allowance from BRC for money for pre-moot purchases, and some of these purchases were quite costly and took up to 4 weeks to

be reimbursed leaving myself out of pocket)

- There was NO allowance for purchases during moot, and as some of the alcohol was to be purchased independently of our supplier (with whom an account had been arranged) this again left
- Julie and myself out of pocket and at times took more than a week to be reimbursed
- The sales were all organised through the Aussiemoot admin team, and this at times caused problems as the cash needed to be separated from the moot sales as we were running as two separate sections. This made the admin job harder at times when they were busy and there were discrepancies at times There was also a MAJOR issue when needing to finalise the accounts. I was advised that I would have to hold off paying suppliers accounts, which in a business environment was totally unacceptable. After being threatened with collection agencies being involved, the BRC and Aussiemoot finance team then came through with the finances to cover the invoices.
- There was also a minor issue with the ice trailer not working, but the company were fortunately able to come and change it over for a new one

Before concluding I would like to thank Julie Ryan who was my right hand woman and the licensee for the bar without whom the bar would not have been able to run, Dink and his Aussiemoot executive team and last but not least Samantha Brown, Levi Boes and their awesome night time entertainment team who provided us with some excellent music and entertainment during the event. Thanks for all the good times!!

# Kent Palmer

## Hume RRC Chairman



What a past 12 months we have had, celebrating the centenary of Scouting! 2007 was a great success for Hume Region Rovers. I would just like to say thank you to everyone one that has helped myself over the past year. It's good to see how Rovers has improved in Hume over this time. We have 4 active crews and hopefully in the next year we will have a few more.

Over the past year I have been involved some amazing Scouting events and activities including The Scouting Sunrise at the Opera House

and Australia Day Spectacular in Darling Harbor. At these events I was honored to be greeted by the Governor of New South Wales and even had good discussions with her regarding Rovers, Scouting and badge work.

I have also attended Hume Region Administration and Finance Committee Meeting, Region Commissioner Team meetings, as well as Hume Executive meetings. For sometime now, the Rover place at these meetings has been empty. Due to my presence, the participants at these meetings now have a greater respect and understanding of the rover section. I hope that this seat is continued in the future, to allow Rovers a greater voice within the region as well as keeping up to date with Region happenings and informs others of what we are doing as a section.

Service this year was excellent. Along with our normal Camp Staffs at Glenfield that I know are much appreciated we held Hume Moot out at Cataract with the theme of service. A load of work was completed and after the event, I received a letter from the camp warden, Gary Ward; thanking us on the work we provided to the site.

"You give a fine name to the Rover Section and to its motto of service"  
- Gary Ward



Hume and GWS Roventure

The Hume Initiative Course, run by Kentlyn Rovers, was very successful. I would like to say a big thank you on behalf of the region for all the hard work they did getting it organized and running of the event.

The 17th Australian Rover Moot "Aussiemoot" was the premier Roving event for the year. I would just like to thank Gareth Walsh and Garth Nagle for all the hard work they put in. It was an excellent event; I enjoyed every minute of it. Congratulations also goes to Razorback Rovers and Kayla Perry from Matong Rover Crew for running very successful Expeditions I would encourage everyone who is able to attend, to make the trip to OzMoot 2011 in South Australia.

I would also like to thank Hume Rovers for their continual support of VOC 1 at Dragonskin. I truly believe that the VOC wouldn't be such the success without the Rovers support. I was able to see this by being VOC Commander this year and am still amazed how everyone there pitched in and made such a great event. A massive thank you to my right hand man James Watkins "Wheatus" for all his help and support.

Hume also has a new Commissioner for Rovers, Stuart Peterson. He is an old Rover from the region and it's going to be good working with him.

I am looking forward to the upcoming Rover training course from 3rd – 4th May. This will be a good opportunity for Rovers within and outside the region, to be trained by our own region. I'm also excited about starting up a few more crews, Miller and Southern Highlands Rover Crews. It's great to see Hume Rovers Growing.

Looking forward to the year ahead 100 years of Scouting in Australia and 90 Years of Rovers. It's going to be a great year for the Rovers of Hume Region

# Ian Cosgrove

## Hunter & Coastal RRC President

Hunter and Coastal Region Rovers have been as active as ever, if not more so over the past 12 months.

Achievements include the resurrection and running of a successful Hypnotist Night by Belmont Rovers, the planning of the first Hunter and Coastal Region Moot in over 5 years – this is being done by a consortium of Rovers and headed by the Belmont Rover Crew, Roventure 08 along with the Gosford Rover Crew successfully tendering to run Bush Dance '08.

Other highlights to mention include the registration of 2 new Crews, Kotara and Manning District. There is also another new Crew, Merewether, that is in the process of going through the registration requirements and we hope to see them off the ground by mid 2008.

PR was a focus for our Region this year with a road show to the Upper Hunter spurring some interest, however this must be followed up.

I would like to take the opportunity now as outgoing President of the H&C RRC to thank all of my executive for a job well done. We have made some major achievements over the past year and I look forward to seeing Rovers throughout Hunter and Coastal progress into the future.

### Region Activities 2007 / 2008

- Byattunga Rovers have hosted the H&C Region Roventure on the 8/9/10 Feb at the WEC Centre at Morrisset.
- Belmont Rovers hosted the Hypnotist Night at Gosford RSL club in November 2007



- Belmont is planning the return of the Hunter and Coastal Region Moot for May 2008 "McMoot". Keep your eye out for more promo information on this one.

- Gosford Rover Crew hosted a joint Venturer / Rover paintball day for our Region. They achieved a total of 60 people (both Venturers and Rovers) for the day.

- As a Region we participated in both BP's Birthday Bash in Feb 2008 and also in the Centenary celebrations at Newcastle Foreshore in 2007.

- As a Region we participated in the Variety Club Special Kids Christmas Party in Newcastle. There was a reasonable attendance from both Rovers and Venturer's and it was great to see smiles on the faces of so many disadvantaged children on the night. Thank you again to all who attended

The RRC treated everyone who has participated in the governance of our Region to a Christmas celebration / thank you dinner in 2007. The purpose of the dinner was to reward / thank those who had attended our RRC meetings throughout the year and to show people that the executive appreciated the feedback from the rest of the Region.

Finally we have implemented a new method of fee distribution to our Crews whereby the Region President / Treasurer is responsible for the issuance of invoices for membership fees. This was done in an effort to reduce payment times from Rover Crews to Region Office and appears to be working.

### Notable Crew Activities

- Wyoming ran their annual wineries tour which was once again sold out. Look out for flyers for this year's tour.

- Gosford have won the tender to host Bushdance 2008, 31st May @ Kulnura Hall, Look out for flyers

- Gosford and Wyoming both had members from their Crews attend Aussiemoot

- East Maitland Rovers ran the Gourmet Tour for Aussiemoot and all had a great time. Congratulations to East Maitland.

### BP Awards

- Jannett Brown from Byattunga put forward her BP Award for final approval to the RRC in December. This had been approved by her crew and was approved by the RRC. Congratulations Jannett.

- Further to this, the RCC (H&C), and RC Rovers (H&C) has also signed her award.

Congratulations and thank you to all of the outgoing RRC executive on a job well done.



## Sonia Lamb

### North Coast Region

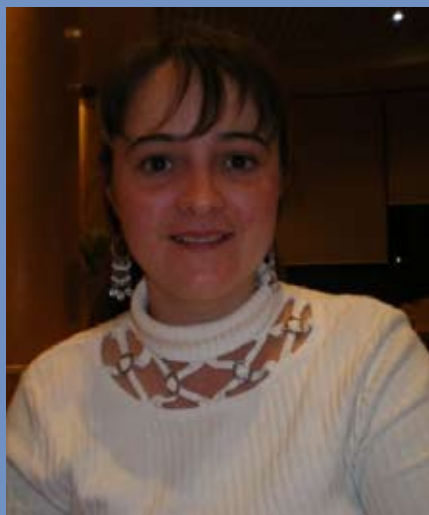
Hello from the north coast.

The past year has been rather slow in terms of Rovers. We have currently only one small crew with a handful of Rovers and soon to be cutting that handful in half as a couple are moving away and one ready to be booted.

To overcome this problem we are focusing at increasing numbers by making flyers that we will post up at the local universities and Tafes. Also getting in touch with Venturers who are coming of age and former venturers who have left the movement and inviting them to activities. Also we are focusing on a fun, solid program which will attract members.

Down the south of the region there is talk of a new Rover Crew forming. A number of people are looking into getting numbers and starting the crew in the near future.

Our regional Commissioner is looking at holding a Rover camp down near Glenreagh where current, new and prospective rovers can get together and do adventurous activities and possibly getting a trainer to run some basic rover training.



## Rebecca Monti

### North West Region

In the last 12 Months, FGRC has doubled it's members, and we now have regular attendees at business meetings and regional camps, as well as some Branch activities (ie. Sydney's Scouting Sunrise, Snow Moot, Bushdance, Branch Ball 2008 as well as quite a few BRC's last year).

Hopefully in the coming year we will successfully recruit more members as well as an RC Rovers, and an RA for our Crew.

We have been in negotiations about this for a time now also.

We currently have 12 Members, with a possible 4 more being from people moving into the area as well as quite a few Venturers hopefully coming up in the coming months.

A fairly successful year, with hopefully a better one again coming.



Hike for Hunger



Lee-Michelle Rowe at Aussiemoot Opening Ceremony



Rover Scout Motorsports



Phil Marry



## Scott Witchard NSW Lones Rover Crew

The NSW Lones Rover Crew has had a busy year in 2007/08 our numbers have gone from something like one rover and a squire to two rovers, 6 squires and 7 recruits and a yet to be booted rover, we also have two lone venturers who are eligible to undertake their link badge. Over the past year we have held two crew camps one at Glenrock Scout Camp in Newcastle and another at Dubbo in late 2007. We had four rovers attend Aussiemoot and Lord Mayors Picnic (Jacinta, Jade Martin and Loretta) with many remarks about seeing four Lones together at once all who attended both events had a great time and look forward to OZMoot and the next Lord Mayors Picnic. Jacinta and Jade also attended the National Rover Youth Forum held at Aussiemoot. Jade represented NYC at the annual NRC Conference held at Glenfield Scout Camp after Aussiemoot. Our RA, his son (our Squires Squire) and his father both visited Aussiemoot on the open day and had a great time trying out all the activities.

Jacinta was awarded her Baden-Powell award at the February BRC in which 5 Rovers and our RA Trevor attended, and with Jacinta turning the dreadful age of 26 the following day elections for CL were held early with Scott Witchard being voted in as our new Crew Leader and Jade Elliott our new Assistant Crew Leader. All five rovers at BRC continued on and attended Branch Ball and had a blast.

Members attended Founders day celebrations in Port Macquarie and Tamworth. Jade has started up a groupe-newsletter called Izindaba and has so far had 3 issues come out. We have a number of members planning on attending the April BRC and State Rover Conference as well as Jacinta's BP presentation the following weekend at Government house. We also have a planned crew camp at Tuena on the 19th and 20th of April where we hope to invest a number of squires and recruits and also hold Jacinta's formal booting.

Scott Witchard has also had his Project and Scoutcraft award proposals approved and has begun work on them, with Martin, Loretta and Jade nearing completion of there Skills awards. David has completed his Scout Leader training at Dubbo and is also in his second year of his apprenticeship and Jade has begun her Cub Leader training with 1st Guyra. With many other members of the crew helping out at weekly section meetings of their local groups.

Other things that have happened this year include Jade representing Scouts Australia at the Asia Pacific Region Youth Forum & Conference as a Delegate. We also presented four 'I want to be a Rover' woggles. Scouting Sunrise was celebrated by members at Camden Haven Scout

Group, Cobar Girl Guides and by members at home.

We have had a great year and are looking forward to an even fuller and eventful year to come.



Glenrock Crew Camp



Lones @ Aussiemoot closing



Dubbo Crew Camp

## Brenton Dearing

### Riverina Region

2007 was a rather interesting year for Rovering in Riverina, With our AGM not happening until late in the year, since that time we have held a couple of RRC meetings including one quite successful meeting in Albury in which we had attendance from all crews as well as a visit from Jeff Rose. Jeff also attended the 2008 RRC AGM and we thank him for his support.

There are currently 4 Crews in the Region being:

- ☒ First Albury Rover Crew
- ☒ Wagga Rover Crew
- ☒ Koorungal Rover Crew
- ☒ Yanco Rover Crew

The Region Rover Council this year consisted of:

- ☒ Brenton Dearing – Region Chair
- ☒ Brendan Finn – Secretary
- ☒ Steven Reynolds - Treasurer

Rovering is certainly looking healthy in the region, with Rover numbers well above 20 for the first time in many years, and at least another 12 prospective members in the region.

I would like to take the time to acknowledge and thank those that have worked hard on improving communication within, and the profile of, the region. We have made quite a lot of progress in a short space of time, and have a lot more hard work ahead of us.



We had members attend the following activities, and hopefully we will continue to make it more:

- ☒ Aussemoot
- ☒ Sand Blast
- ☒ Dragonskin
- ☒ Surf Moot
- ☒ Mudbash
- ☒ Disney moot
- ☒ Branch Rover Ball

Crews also worked hard on getting the rover name out to the other sections, with most crews running activities with the younger sections, Venturer numbers are improving within the region and most are planning on moving onto rovers when the time comes.

The 2008 RRC has now been elected. I will be staying on for another term as Chair, with Kate Rosser joining the team as Secretary. The position of treasurer has been left open until the next meeting.



## Greg Pearce

### South Coast and Tablelands RRC Chairman

This year was a very big year for SCAT Rovers. We had an executive that worked very well together and we got the job done in all regards. I would like to thank the members of our executive for all of their time and support over the last twelve months. I would also like to thank our RC-R, Nighty, who is an invaluable resource to any Rover, let alone an RRC.

The year saw us continue our commitment to Service, with the following events all drawing large numbers of Rovers:

- Catering for the Region Scout Competition Camp, 'Pigskin;'
- Dragonskin;
- ANZAC Day March in Wollongong;
- Centenary of Scouting celebrations;
- Music in the Rainforest series of concerts at Mount Keira; and
- Breakfast on the Beach project with Rotary.

Our two biggest events for the year were our Roventure and the Weekend Wide Game. The WWG was originally a Figtree Rover Crew event, however with the Crew current down on membership the RRC took the event on. This was an extremely successful event and sore a large number of Scouts and Leader have a great time over the weekend at Cataract. But more importantly, they all walked away knowing what a Rover is! The event was so popular that numbers kept growing and growing and we eventually had to back order another batch of event badges!

The last Roventure in SCAT was held in 1998 so it was with great excitement that the event was resurrected in 2007. Bigger and better than expected was the turn out as we all ventured down to Wee Jasper for a weekend of fun and excitement and more than a little caving. Again important relationships were fostered between Rovers and Venturers and I look forward to again seeing the event as a regular fixture on the SCAT calendar for years to come.

2007 was also a big year for traveling for SCAT Rovers. Rovers traveled to the World Jamboree, South East Asia and the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea. SCAT Rovers also traveled to Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia and Victoria to attend events and to continue their adventurous activities pursuits. Well done to everyone who continues to have a real go.

Work commitments for myself seemed to grow exponentially this year, but thankfully my tireless assistant was always there to pick up the slack when I was unavailable. I would like to send Mark a big Thank You for all of his dedication and assistance throughout the year, I can guarantee that no assistant has ever worked so hard in the role, and I do very much appreciate everything that he did.



## Nicholas Wolf South Metropolitan RRC Chairman

2007 was a big year within South Met Rovers. When I took on this position there were certain items I wanted to improve, and I feel that I have completed some of these and set the ground work on others.

The number 1 focus was to improve communication and distribution of information around Crews within South Met. This happened by continued use of the Region email account as well as the creation and distribution of a care package to each Crew within the Region. This wasn't the only aim for the year, but definitely one that I feel was of greatest benefit to the Rovers within the Region.

We also standardised meetings to be held at the Region office in 2007 as a way of removing the confusion of where the meetings would be held and also started the Crew presentations that break the meeting up a bit and allow the rest of the Region to get to know each Crew. I hope the new executive continue to challenge the Region and come up with innovative changes to the way the council runs.

From a Region perspective, it is great to see Crews getting out and embracing the motto of our section - "Service". A lot of work was completed at Camp Coutts, many halls around the Region have had work done on them, St Georges Day & Anzac Day services were well attended by members along with our annual involvement in the Branch service activities Hike for Hunger and Lord Mayor's Picnic.

Unfortunately during the year we also saw the closure of a Crew and the opening of 2 new Crews. Let's hope these Crews can sustain their numbers during the hardest part the Crews lifespan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Region as a whole for trusting me in this role along with all those on the Region Executive who have supported and embraced my ideas.



# Owen Sutton

## The Golden West Region

**MEMBERSHIP:** Currently there are three Rover Crews in The Golden West Region being: Bathurst/Macquarie District Rover Crew, Canobolas Rover Crew and 2nd Orange Rover Crew. Currently Bathurst/Macquarie District Rover Crew has 10 members and 2 potential recruits, Canobolas Rover Crew have 5 members and 2nd Orange Rover Crew has 8 members. All are actively promoting their Crew to attract more members.

**ACTIVITIES:** All Crews have been participating in a number and variety of activities including but not limited to: Running a Flying Fox at Bathurst's Australia Day celebrations, milk

Over the past year the Sydney North RRC Executive has commenced a different approach with our goals and planning. We found a number of Crews in the Region were struggling for varying reasons, there were issues such as recruitment and low skill levels and it was also noted that the attitude from some outside our section of Rovers as "...Joeys who drink and drive..." needed addressing. With a lot of brainstorming we came up with the following approach to address these issues:

### "6 Pillars Plan"

- Getting "innate" support from others in Scouting, eg. visiting District Councils and promoting progression through the sections
- Recruiting Venturers, eg. RAT (Rover Awareness Team) reactivated
- Recruiting others, eg. "Bring a Mate" Moot
- Develop Crew Leaders, eg. rejig the training
- Develop younger Rovers, eg.

crate stacking at Eglinton Gymkhana, Founder's Day activities, teams at Ratskin, canoe and charge certificate camps, business meetings, visits to Cubs and Venturers, squire training, Dragonskin, service activities such as lawn mowing and many more.

### REGIONAL COMMISSIONER:

The Golden West Region has not had a Regional Commissioner for Rovers for some years however we have recently found a suitable candidate for the position but this is yet to be formalised. This person has spent nearly 25 years in Rovering and if they decide to take up the position will prove to be a valuable asset for Rovering in this Region.

### REGIONAL ROVER COUNCIL:

In early March an interim Regional Rover Council has been programmed with representation from all three Rover Crews to decide whether or not the Region requires a Regional Rover Council and if so how it will

be organised including office holders, constitution and whether a separate bank account will be necessary or whether the Council will be more of a get together and discussion forum.

**BADGEWORK:** At the time of writing no information is known on Canobolas and 2nd Orange Rovers' badgework progress, however 90% of Bathurst/Macquarie District Rover Crew have achieved their Rover Skills Award, 2 have achieved their Service Stars, 1 has achieved their Scoutcraft Star with others nearing completion, three are undertaking their Project Badges and 2 have submitted proposals for Ramblers' Badge hikes. Both of these people are **DESPERATELY** seeking people to accompany them on these hikes and it would be a disappointing shame if these two Rovers were unable to complete their Baden-Powell Awards due to lack of support from other Rovers in the state. Further information can be obtained from the address below.



## Kylie Young

### Sydney North RRC Chairman

encourage in-service for everyone not just Crew Leaders

- RRC Exec, eg. make RRC meeting more exciting (making it more appealing)

Needless to say, as a Region we

were kept busy with plenty of service and other activities. Crews within the Region involved themselves with plenty of service activities such as the Region Service Project at Barra Brui, Scouthike, Dragonskin, Oxfam Trailwalker, Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, blood donations, ANZAC Day, Ventout, Lord Mayor's Picnic, Slamboree and the Hike for Hunger. And of course, most Crews were heavily involved with all aspects of Aussiemoot.

As with every year, our Crews put in a huge effort to run successful Region events. Thanks to Kissing Point for running Wonka Moot and Mt Colah/Mt Kuringai for putting on the Holy Grail Roventure. The Region Dinner finally moved away from Ghenghis Kahn and we hit up some old school Karaoke and Chinese food down at the Golden Singapura in Brookvale. Mona Vale attempted to run the Kalang Kup twice, but due to torrential rain, it has unfortunately had to be postponed to 2008! The final event on the Region calendar was of course CRAP, run by

Brush Park with a Christmas feast for all to enjoy and the annual presentation of the ROSCAR Awards.

Not only did Sydney North Rovers give great support to our Region events but we also had a presence at all NSW Branch events as well as many making the effort to travel interstate to attend events such as Mudbash, Sandblast, Surfmoor and Banana Bash. This year saw a first when two Rovers from Sydney North went down to Victoria to participate in "Envirover", bringing back many ideas about how to run a similar environment activity for NSW.

There were also a lot of Crew and individual achievements that

deserve a mention. A collective group from Garigal, Platabeen and Mona Vale were runners-up in National's "Fly the Flag" competition, for unfurling a 10x10 metre flag and Rover banner whilst abseiling off Warriewood headland. Kissing Point were nominated for the Lodge Baden-Powell Service Awards, and Garigal, Epping, Kissing Point and Turramurra for the Quality Roving Awards. With the closure of 1st East Roseville Rover Crew, the Tony Balthasar Award was made available for the first time in 2007 to all Sydney North Region Rovers. I was fortunate enough to be the recipient of the Award for 2007 and will be leaving for two months

overseas on March 1st to take up this great opportunity.

With a view to revamp leadership training, all Basic courses ran successfully this year with good attendance. We also had four members of our Region undertake their Advanced training and are currently working toward their Woodbadge projects.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the Sydney North Exec including our Commissioners, who have supported and assisted over the past twelve months, and the Region's Crew Leaders who have devoted themselves to maintaining a high standard of Roving.



Fly the Flag Runners up

New South Wales Branch Rover Council  
Special Awards  
2007 - 2008

**Baden Powell Rover Service Awards**

Joanne Holden      WaggaWagga Rover Crew  
Robert Ferguson      Coogee Rover Crew  
Aaron Wardle      1st Westmead Rover Crew  
Jacinta Thatcher      NSW Lones Rover Crew

**Stan Bales Rover Service Awards**

David Ravell  
John Kane  
Trevor Nickl

**Lodge BP Service Award**

Kissing Point Rover Crew

**Quality Roving Award**

NSW Lones  
1st Baulkham Hills  
Mona Vale  
Kissing Point  
Garigal  
Turramurra  
Epping  
Bangor / Werne Bay  
Engadine  
The Gymea  
3rd Rose Bay



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