



North Coast Region

“Binoculars”

Term 1 2025



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Bel Howell

Region Commissioner (Outgoing)



Dear Scouting friends,

Congratulations, again, to Yowie on his appointment as Region Commissioner. I have no doubt he will do a fine job and will have your support. Along with some impressive members of the Region team, North Coast is in a good place to continue making the changes we commenced 15 months ago – addressing program delivery, Group support, training, engagement and technology, and a more positive and safe culture. Yowie is well placed to continue implementing any necessary Region changes.

Thank you to Region team and Region Executive members for their ongoing commitment to the North Coast. Change is rarely easy but it has been necessary, and we have achieved some good outcomes.

Thank you to the many people who welcomed me into the North Coast and who have actively supported me. Thank you, also, to the many people who have sent me their thanks and their wishes, both for my new role and for my ongoing care for my mother during her challenging health situation. For me, and after some big years in senior roles, family is coming first.

I wish you all happy Scouting in 2025. I look forward to seeing you around the state in the future.

Yours in Scouting,
Bel Howell



Anthony Boland

Region Commissioner (Incoming)



A Message from Your Region Commissioner – Anthony "Yowie" Boland

Well, not much of an introduction is needed—I've been around for a while, but I'm excited to be stepping into the Region Commissioner role for the next three years. We've got a fantastic Region full of passionate volunteers and incredible youth members, and I'm looking forward to seeing what we can achieve together.

A big thank you to everyone who's helped make this transition smooth. Having been part of the Region team already, I know just how much effort goes on behind the scenes to keep things running, and I appreciate all the support as I settle into this new role.

There's plenty ahead for our Region, and I can't wait to get stuck in. Whether it's supporting groups, tackling new projects, or just sharing a yarn around a campfire, I'm keen to work with all of you to keep Scouting thriving.

Looking forward to the journey ahead—let's get to it!

Yours in Scouting,
Anthony "Yowie" Boland
Region Commissioner



Events & Activities

What's on..



Upcoming Events (Feb – April 2025)

February 2025

- ARP Preparation Webinar – 13th Feb, 6:30pm–8pm
- Moving Water (Canoe/Kayak) Training – 14th–16th Feb
- Founders Fun Camp – Northern Rivers – 21st–23rd Feb
 - Registrations have been extended for a limited time.. Register Now!
- Medieval Games – 28th Feb–2nd Mar

March 2025

- Leader Development Weekend – 8th–9th Mar
- Thrills and Skills: Legends of the Past! – 28th–30th Mar

April 2025

- Bushwalking Workshop – Gibraltar Range NP – 4th–6th Apr
- Climbing and Training Weekend – 11th–13th Apr
- Dragon Skin 2025 – 18th–21st Apr

For more details and registrations, visit: ScoutEvent

<https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/region/nc>



Region Youth Council

An update..



Region Youth Council – A Year of Achievements and Exciting Plans Ahead!

The Region Youth Council (RYC) had a fantastic year in 2024, successfully achieving three major goals!

- A Leadership Group was established, made up of youth members who now run and manage different aspects of RYC.
- An Orama District Badge was introduced, providing a new way to recognise achievements within the district.
- With the support of Region Leaders Yowie and Koala, RYC played a key role in launching RASOREE – the first-ever all-section region camp! This event was an absolute blast for everyone involved, and due to its huge success, we're excited to announce that RASOREE will be returning later this year!

Looking ahead to 2025, RYC has several exciting projects in the works:

- A TikTok account run by youth members, bringing fun and engaging content to the region.
- A Youth-Led Environment Project, working towards organising an Environment Camp later this year.
- A Newsletter Project Patrol, dedicated to making sections of this newsletter more youth-focused so that all members can get something valuable out of it.

With so much happening, 2025 is shaping up to be another incredible year for the Region Youth Council. Stay tuned for more updates, and if you want to be involved, reach out and join the team!



Achievements

Congratulations..



Celebrating Our Recent Achievements!

We're proud to recognise the outstanding achievements of Scouts and Leaders across the region from 1 September 2024 to 4 February 2025.

🎉 **Katherine Gates** has been appointed Region Commissioner (Venturer Scouts)—we look forward to her leadership!

🏆 **Aspen Matherson** (Grafton) earned the Grey Wolf Award, the pinnacle of Cub Scouts.

🌟 **Jasper Murray** (Byron Bay) & **Lewis Jenner** (Nambucca Valley) achieved the Australian Scout Award, the highest recognition in the Scout section.

👑 **Caitlyn Bice** (Murwillumbah) earned the King's Scout Award, the highest achievement in the Venturer Scout Section.

🥇 **Elizabeth Kirk** (North Coast Rover Unit) received the Baden-Powell Scout Award, the top Rover achievement.

🌿 **Steven Males** (1st Kempsey) earned The Wood Badge, marking his commitment to advanced leadership.

A huge congratulations to all—your dedication continues to inspire! 🏆👏



Joeys & Cubs

Discover adventure to create the path..



Thrills and Skills: Legends of the Past Camp – Registrations Now Open!

Attention all Joey Scouts and Cub Scouts, it's time to set your sights on an incredible adventure! **Registrations are NOW OPEN** for the Thrills and Skills: Legends of the Past Camp, happening from **March 28-30**. Get ready for an unforgettable journey through time where you'll be able to explore history in the most exciting way possible!

Whether you're battling fierce Vikings, solving puzzles in Ancient Egypt, or discovering the wonders of the prehistoric world, this camp has it all! With five incredible themed bases to explore—**Medieval, Vikings, Prehistoric, Ancient Egypt, and Ancient Greece**—each base brings its own epic challenge. Every adventurer will find something to excite their imagination!



Joeys & Cubs

Discover adventure to create the path..



This two-night camp is the perfect opportunity for **Joey Scouts and Cub Scouts** to experience new activities, meet other youth members from the North Coast Region, and have a blast completing history-themed challenges. You'll camp and eat with your home Groups, ensuring a familiar, fun environment.

But wait, there's more! **Scouts and Venturer Scouts** working on Milestones 2 or 3 are also invited to attend as Junior Service Leaders, lending a hand and gaining valuable experience.

We wouldn't want to forget our amazing adult helpers—if you've met the necessary Scouts NSW requirements (registered on ScoutHub, with a current Working with Children Check and National Police Check, plus completed the mandatory training modules), you're more than welcome to join in the fun too!

Don't miss out on this fantastic adventure! Be sure to register by 3 March through Scout Event at:

<https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/1951>

And for all our **Joey and Cub Leaders**—mark your calendars for **23-25 May** for the **State Konaver**. This exciting camp is just for leaders and promises a weekend full of networking, upskilling, and plenty of fun. You won't want to miss it—stay tuned for more details!

It's going to be a legendary time, and we can't wait to see you there! 🌟



Scouts & Venturers

Explore the unknown and start to look wide..



Dear Scouts, Venturers, and Families,

I hope everyone had a safe and happy break!

Over the holidays, the North Coast was proudly represented at the 26th Australian Jamboree in Maryborough. We had an incredible turnout, with 74 Scout & Venturer participants, 3 Venturer Service Leaders, and 22 Leaders all coming together for an unforgettable experience. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and made this event truly special!

As we kick off another exciting year, I'm looking forward to seeing all of you back in action—whether it's at your local unit nights, weekend camps, or major events. The year ahead is packed with opportunities to challenge yourselves, make new friends, and create lasting memories.

Medieval Games Camp (Venturers) – 28 Feb–2 March

Step back in time for a weekend filled with knights, princesses, and sword fights! Inspired by Monty Python's Holy Grail, this event promises quests, coconut sound effects, and a grand Medieval Doof and Fayre. Don't miss out—register now on Scout Event!

Thrills & Skills (Cub Camp) – 28–30 March

Our annual region Cub Camp is back! Scouts and Venturers, you can be part of the fun by helping to run activities. Check Scout Event for details and registration.



Scouts & Venturers

Explore the unknown and start to look wide..



Dragon Skin (Venturers) – 19–21 April (Easter Weekend)

It's time to gather your team and prepare for the ultimate Venturer challenge! Those who went last year had an absolute blast, and this year is set to be just as epic.

Whether you're a Scout planning your next patrol adventure, a Venturer gearing up for Dragon Skin, or a Leader helping to make it all happen, I encourage you to jump in, get involved, and make the most of everything Scouting has to offer.

Keep an eye on our event listings, talk to your leaders, and start planning your next adventure. There's something for everyone, and I can't wait to see what you all achieve this year!

If you ever need support or have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

Let's make 2025 a fantastic year for North Coast Scouts!

Yours in Scouting,
LadyBug (Melinda Hine)



Rover Scouts

Get a glimpse beyond the horizon..



North Coast Rovers – A Year in Review and Exciting Plans Ahead!

The North Coast Rovers had an incredible year in 2024! Three of our Rovers had the adventure of a lifetime attending Roverway in Norway, an international Scouting event that brought together young people from across the world for an unforgettable experience.

In a significant change, our unit has rebranded from Cape Byron Rover Crew to North Coast Rover Scout Unit to better reflect the fact that our members come from across the entire North Coast Region. This new identity strengthens our connection and reach within the Scouting community.

A huge congratulations goes to Elizabeth Kirk for achieving her Baden-Powell Scout Award, the highest award in Rovers! This is an incredible accomplishment, requiring dedication, perseverance, and hard work. Elizabeth managed to complete this while also being a Scout Leader at Murwillumbah Scout Group and becoming a parent – an outstanding effort! On behalf of the North Coast Rover Scout Unit, we extend a massive BRAVOOO to Elizabeth!

Looking ahead, 2025 is shaping up to be just as exciting. Five of our Rovers will be heading to New Zealand Moot, followed by an adventure exploring the North Island together. We're also gearing up for a busy year filled with Moots, region events, and plenty of opportunities to connect, challenge ourselves, and make lifelong memories.

We can't wait to see what the year brings – bring on 2025!



Groups

A Scout is helpful..



Each Scout Group must hold an Annual Report Presentation (ARP) by 30 April, as required under the Charitable Fundraising Act. This event is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the past year's achievements and look ahead to the future, while ensuring transparency and accountability.

Steps to Conduct Your ARP:

- Set a Date – Confirm your ARP date and let us know, so we can arrange for a Region representative to attend and share in the celebration.
- Access Documents – Head to the Scouts NSW website to review all the necessary documents and guidelines.
- Audit Financials – Make sure your financial records are up to date and that any un-audited records from previous years are completed. An auditor could be a local accountant, treasurer from another Group, or even a qualified family member. Need help finding one? Reach out, and we'll lend a hand.
- Submit Fundraising Certificates – Send all completed certificates to NC.region@nsw.scouts.com.au.
- Complete the C2 Form – This includes your Group's office bearers. Remember, each Group needs a Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and two Formation Delegates. Some role descriptions are available on Scout Central. New office bearers must complete an Adult Support Form.
- Update Scout Hub – Remove old committee members from Scout Hub to keep your records up-to-date.

To be continued..



Groups

continued..



- Fire Safety Compliance – Don't forget to ensure your Scout Hall has a valid fire safety certificate.
- Conduct Asset & Hall Inspection – Ensure all assets are accounted for and the hall is in tip-top shape.
- Prepare Documentation – Gather all the necessary paperwork and provide it to the Region Representative at the ARP.
- Plan the ARP Event – Make the event memorable and fun for the whole family. Activities like a campfire night, BBQ, bingo, or trivia will add to the spirit of celebration.

Important Reminder:

It's crucial to complete all steps before your ARP. Without it, your Group cannot continue to operate. The deadline for the ARP is 30 April, so make sure everything's ready in time.

Need Help?

We're here to support you! Join our ARP Help Night for guidance and to get any questions answered. Register now on Scout Event.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and commitment to making this a fantastic ARP for your Group and the Scouting community! Let's work together to make this a memorable event for all.



Training & Development

What comes next..



2024 was a fantastic year, with many trainee leaders achieving their Certificate of Proficiency. Congratulations to all!

Mandatory Training Reminder

Training must be completed every two years. If your modules are expiring, log into the On Demand Learning platform ASAP to avoid suspension.

2025 Training Opportunities

Training is for both new and experienced leaders. Please encourage trainee leaders to attend courses—details have been emailed. Ensure all prerequisites are met before applying. The full training calendar is on the NSW Scouts website.

Upcoming Courses

Scouting Essentials

Mar 15-16 | Pennant Hills (Sydney) | Closes 14 Feb

Mar 29-30 | Online | Closes 1 Mar

Apr 5-6 | Glenreagh | Closes 7 Mar



Training & Development

What comes next..



Scouting Adventure

Mar 15-16 | Pennant Hills | Closes 14 Feb

Apr 5-6 | Glenreagh | Closes 7 Mar

May 17-18 | Tamworth | Closes 18 Apr

Scouting Management & Leadership

Mar 15-16 | Pennant Hills | Closes 14 Feb (Both Courses)

Jun 21-22 | Pennant Hills | Closes 23 May (Both Courses)

Register at:

<https://nsw.scouts.com.au/members-services/training-and-activities/training-calendar/> or **Google** "Scouts NSW Training" and select "Find a Course"

Need Help?

For training queries, reach out to: tara.chapman@nsw.scouts.com.au

Tara Chapman
Region Commissioner
Adult Training and Development



Adventurous Activities

Navigate..



Exciting Adventurous Activities Training Opportunities!

Looking to expand your skills and gain qualifications in Adventurous Activities? Check out these upcoming training opportunities:

🛶 Feb 14-16 – Moving Water (Canoe/Kayak) Training on the Nymboida

👤 Mar 8-9 – Leader Development Workshop (LDW)

A golden opportunity to complete your TP-Core, required for all TP Adventurous Activity qualifications.

Sessions on Bushwalking, Mountain Biking, and more!

🏕️ Apr 4-6 – Bushwalking Workshop – Gibraltar Range NP

🧗 Apr 11-13 – Climbing and Training Weekend

🪂 May 9-11 – Abseiling Upskill and Training Weekend

🚴 Jun 13-15 – MTB Skills Weekend – TP On and Off Road

For even more training opportunities, check out the QLD Scouts Training Calendar: scoutsqld.com.au/training – qualifications are accepted nationwide!

Want to obtain Flat Water Canoeing or Bushwalking qualifications? Phil Shepherd is happy to attend activities run by your unit to help get your skills signed off!

Keep an eye on Scout Event in other Regions for even more training sessions!



Important Updates

Whats news..



Grants

The NSW Community Building Grants are open from 27 January to late February 2025. These grants can be used for work on Scout buildings, with a maximum funding of \$20,000. Please note, you cannot apply if a Development Application (DA) is required. Repairs are eligible, but if a DA is needed, it must be in place before applying.

Additionally, there is a stronger building grant with open terms. All grant applications must have a GRN number and must be submitted through the Region. Applications should be directed to shirley.kelly@nsw.scouts.com.au or by phone at 0499 344 343.