



North Coast

Region

“Binoculars”

Term 1 2026



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Anthony Boland

Region Commissioner



Welcome back to another exciting year of Scouting in the North Coast Region and beyond! As we begin 2026, I'd like to take a moment to focus on our current membership position and acknowledge the work happening across our Groups.

Membership Numbers

Week ending 8 February 2026 (compared with May 2025):

- 423 Youth Members – 94%
- 98 Leaders – 86%
- 147 Adult Supporters – 81%
- Total: 668 Members – 90%

While we all recognise that our membership numbers need to improve if we are to truly grow Scouting, it's reassuring to see that we are tracking in line with the broader trend across NSW.

Growth looks different for every Group—there is no single solution that works for all. Some Groups are thriving, and this presents a valuable opportunity for us to come together, share ideas, and learn from each other's successes. By collaborating as a Region, we can ensure stronger, more sustainable Scouting for our young people and our volunteers.

I'm looking forward to catching up with many of you at LDW and throughout the coming months as we continue this journey together.

Yours in Scouting,
Yowie



Events & Activities

What's on..



February 2026

- Leader Development Weekend — Fri 20 Feb (5:00 pm) – Sun 22 Feb (12:00 am)

March 2026

- Venturer Social Camp — Fri 6 Mar (5:00 pm) – Sun 8 Mar (1:30 pm) (Registrations: Open; register by Mon 2 Mar, 11:00 pm)
- Lightweight Hiking Experience — Northern Edition — Fri 20 Mar (5:00 pm) – Sun 22 Mar (2:00 pm) (Registrations: Pending; opens Fri 13 Feb)
- Northern Rivers Joey Cub Water Fun Day — Sat 28 Mar (9:00 am – 1:00 pm) (Registrations: Open; register by Sun 15 Mar, 11:59 pm)

April 2026 (up to 21 April)

- Dragonskin — Fri 3 Apr – Mon 6 Apr
- Cuboree — Queensland — Thu 9 Apr – Mon 13 Apr

[Click here..](#) to register for one of these exciting events.



Region Youth Council

An update..



☀️ Region Youth Council – Your Voice, Your Impact! ☀️

Do you have ideas? Opinions? A spark to help shape the future of Scouting across the North Coast Region? **Then RYC wants YOU!**

Our Region Youth Council Camps are coming up, and they're the perfect opportunity for passionate Scouts to step up, collaborate, influence decisions, and make real change within our Region.

Save These Dates!

- 19–21 June 2026 – RYC Winter Camp
- 11–13 September 2026 – RYC Spring Camp

These weekends are packed with leadership, fun, teamwork, and the chance to represent your Group at a regional level.

Who's it for?

- Scouts, Venturers, Rovers, and ANY youth excited to have a voice
- Parents who think their young person would thrive in a leadership space
- Anyone keen to help drive youth-led decision-making in our Region

Interested? Want to know more?

We'd love to hear from you! Email: nc.youthcouncil@nsw.scouts.com.au

Join the Region Youth Council and help shape the future of North Coast Scouting! 🌲🔥🚀



Achievements

Congratulations..



🌟 Achievements – Celebrating Success Across Our Region! 🌟

A huge congratulations to the outstanding youth members and leaders who have achieved significant milestones in their Scouting journey:

🐺 Grey Wolf Award – Cub Scouts

The Grey Wolf Award is the peak award for the Cub Scout Section.

- Olivia Byron – Coffs Harbour Scout Group – Grey Wolf Award
- Georgia Gleeson – 1st Sawtell Scout Group – Grey Wolf Award

🌲 Wood Badge – Adult Leader Training

The Wood Badge is the premier international leadership training program for adult leaders in Scouting, designed to teach advanced skills in team building, communication, and project planning. Established in 1919 by Baden-Powell, it signifies a volunteer's commitment to personal development and quality Scouting, culminating in the presentation of iconic wooden beads.

- Katherine Gates – 1st Bellingen Scout Group / North Coast Region Team – Wood Badge
- Jeremy Thewlis – Nambucca Valley Scout Group – Wood Badge

Congratulations to all recipients—your dedication, growth, and leadership continue to inspire our entire Scouting community. 🌟👏



Joeys & Cubs

Discover adventure to create the path..



Joey & Cub Water Fun Days – 28 March

Get ready to make a splash! Joeys and Cubs across the North Coast are invited to a fantastic morning of water-based fun, including canoeing, swimming, games and activities in a safe, calm, flat-water environment. It's the perfect opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends and enjoy an adventure-filled morning outdoors.

 Date: 28 March

 Time: 9:00am–1:00pm

Choose your location:

 Northern Rivers District – Shaws Bay, Ballina

Event link: <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/2752>

 Orama District – Bellwood Park, Nambucca Heads

Event link: <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/2753>

North Coast Heads to QLD Cuboree!

In April, an excited contingent of North Coast Cubs, Leaders and Junior Service Leaders will be heading north to take part in the Queensland Cuboree. Over five action-packed days, attendees will dive into a huge variety of adventure activities, challenges and unforgettable experiences.

We wish our Cubs and Leaders an amazing time representing the North Coast and making lifelong memories!



Scouts

Explore the unknown..



Hello Scouts, Leaders, and Families,

My name is Nigel Fellows (Bear), and I'm honoured to step into the role of Region Commissioner – Scouts. A big thank-you to Anthony Boland (Yowie) for his support and for trusting me with this opportunity.

Scouting has been a major part of my life, and I've seen how powerfully it shapes young people. As Region Commissioner, my focus is simple:

I will be a Commissioner who listens.

I want our youth to feel supported, our Leaders to feel valued, and our families to feel connected. I'll work closely with Groups and Leaders to understand what's going well and where we can improve, and to ensure everyone has the support they need to deliver great Scouting.

Thank you for the warm welcome so far. I look forward to meeting many more of you and working together to build an even stronger, more supportive Region.

Yours in Scouting,
Nigel Fellows (Bear)
Region Commissioner – Scouts



Venturer Scouts

Look wide..



Venturers finished 2025 perfectly with a super fun Venturer Social Camp in November 2026. Over 30 Venturers hung out in Lismore travelling the Rail Trail, exploring the town and ending with Clay Target shooting. BTW glowstick frisbee... just ask.

To cap off 2025 and start 2026 on the highest note, we had five Venturers in our Region undertake their King Scout adventurous journey in December and January. These amazing Venturers planned the route, did the risk management and found fellow hiking/paddling members to join them on a 3 night/4 day journey—often ending with a twist, including canoeing the Myall Lakes with a sail or an “unlawful union” on top of Minyon Falls. Hats off to them all. This starts our Region for an amazing year of King Scouts. Keep your eye out for announcements. This is an amazing achievement.



Venturer Scouts

Continued..



2026 looks to be just as much fun. The Venturer Social Camp in early March will have abseiling, pioneering and hiking/canyoning to Scouts Falls (are you coming??). We've also got the lightweight hike in March leading up to Dragonskin over Easter. We have a heap of fun!!! Just ask your fellow Venturers.

We have a few Venturer Units starting up this year, so if you know someone who is keen for Venturers, we've likely got a Unit near them. What fun can you join us in? Lastly, thank you to the Leaders who support our Venturers. Without you we couldn't give them the experiences they have. From Quoll... I love hanging out with you.



Rover Scouts

Get a glimpse beyond the horizon..



🔥 Rover Scouts – A Huge Year Ahead! 🔥

Our North Coast Rovers are kicking off the year with big goals and even bigger adventures! We're proud to share that four of our Rovers are preparing to attend the National Rover Moot: WAY OUT WEST 2027 in Western Australia.

This incredible event will take them across the country for a week of challenge, adventure, and unforgettable Rover camaraderie.

To help make this journey possible, our crew has begun fundraising, and we'd love the support of our Region as they work toward getting to WA.

As we enter a new year of Scouting, our Rovers are ready for fresh challenges, new skills, and plenty of opportunities to grow, serve, and lead. It's shaping up to be an exciting year—full of adventure, fellowship, and making a real impact.

Here's to an amazing year for our Rover Scouts! 🚀



Groups

A Scout is helpful..



It's that time of year again—ARP's are due by 30 April, and we're asking every Scout Group in the Region to make sure theirs is completed on time. Getting ARPs in promptly helps keep our Groups strong, supported, and set up for another great year of Scouting.

ARP Webinar – Wednesday 25 February 2026 at 7pm

We'll be hosting a Region-wide webinar to walk through everything you need to know. Can't make it? No worries—it will be recorded and available afterwards.

All Group Leaders have been automatically invited, but any other leaders or adult supporters are welcome (and encouraged!) to join us. You can register your interest here:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/94463e39-a487-496a-9c99-0e2b842a1801@1d413b23-25e4-416d-9747-6567051a5d0e>

The link is open to the public in case anyone is still having trouble accessing their Scout emails.

New ARP Submission Method

There is a new all-in-one process for submitting your ARP paperwork, and we'll be demonstrating exactly how it works during the webinar. This will simplify the whole process and make life easier for everyone.

Let's make this ARP season smooth and stress-free—see you at the webinar!



Training & Development

What comes next..



Welcome to 2026 and Training!

Training courses are now up and ready for you to enrol in. Training is now registered through Scout Event. If you need to finalise your Certificate of Proficiency, complete your Woodbadge training, or update your skills and knowledge, head over and check out the courses available:

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

If you are completing your Certificate of Proficiency and need to travel distances for the courses, refunds are available under the Benjamin Thompson Fund. Reach out to the Region Office or training@nsw.scouts.com.au for more information.

Mandatory Training

The three mandatory training modules must be completed every two years by all adult members, or upon registration with Scouts. This includes Venturers over 18, Rovers, Leaders and Adult Helpers.

Each month we receive a report of all adult members who are not compliant. These members are emailed and sent SMS messages, and my team then contacts anyone still not compliant. Members who remain not compliant are resigned and the team leader is notified—they should not be attending any Scouting event.



Training & Development

Continued..



A large number of adult helpers we contact are no longer in Scouting. Group Leaders/Leaders in Charge, please ensure resignation forms are completed and submitted for any adult member who leaves, to stop further correspondence.

Scouting Leadership

We have started the year with two Woodbadges being awarded.

Congratulations to Katherine and Jeremy on completing this training and joining the 1st Gilwell Scout Group.

There are many more working on their Woodbadge in the Region, as well as many leaders who need to begin this process.

Will you be the next person to be awarded your Woodbadge?

I look forward to seeing more trainee leaders progress and complete their Certificate of Proficiency this year.

Please remember to reach out if you have any training questions.

Tara Chapman

Region Commissioner (Adult Training & Development)

tara.chapman@nsw.scouts.com.au



Important Updates

Whats news..



Updated Social Media Guidelines

With new government regulations around social media use, Scouts NSW has refreshed its Social Media Guidelines. All members, leaders, and supporters are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the updated expectations:

https://nsw.scouts.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/251201_Social-Media-Guidelines.pdf

Leadership Changes at Scouts NSW

With the resignation of our current Chief Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer taking effect in early April, the Scouts NSW Board of Directors will soon announce interim arrangements to fill these roles. These interim leaders will guide the organisation over the coming months while the Board prepares to undertake recruitment processes for permanent appointments to both of these important leadership positions.

Thank you for staying up to date—these updates help keep our youth, volunteers, and Groups informed, safe, and supported.

