



## **Called To Higher Service: Vale Wayne Geale OAM**

With much sadness, we wish to inform you of the passing last Saturday 27 February 2021 of Wayne Geale, OAM.

Wayne was a Member of the Scout Movement for 62 years, and held leadership roles at all Group, District, Region, Branch, National and International levels of Scouting.

Wayne earned his Queen's Scout Award in 1967. He then went on to earn his Baden Powell Award at the same time as serving as a young Leader.

Whilst living in Goulburn, NSW, Wayne was appointed Assistant Chief Scout Leader in 1968. He was then appointed Scout Leader for 4 years before his employment took him to Canberra, ACT. Subsequent appointments held in the then Canberra Monaro Area of the NSW Branch included:

- District Cub Scout Leader;
- District Scout Leader, and
- Assistant Area Commissioner.

In April 1981, the Canberra Monaro Area separated from the NSW Branch and became the ACT Branch. Wayne played a key role in the transition and is regarded as one of the "pioneers" of the new Branch. Wayne was appointed:

- Assistant Chief Commissioner;
- Branch Executive Officer;
- Chairman, Branch Executive Committee (1989-90), and
- Chief Commissioner (1990-1995).

Between 1997 and 2003, Wayne served as Chairman, National Executive Committee, Scouts Australia, and subsequently as Vice President of the Australian Scout Association.

In parallel with these national appointments, Wayne served for 3 years as Chairman of the Movement's Asia Pacific Region Marketing Committee.

Following his family's move to Wagga Wagga, NSW, Wayne was appointed Region Chairman (Riverina) and Region President. He was Region Commissioner (Riverina Region) for the period 2015-2019. He served as a member of the Scouts NSW Branch Council, and

as a Committee Member of the NSW Asset Committee. From 2019 to the time of his passing, Wayne continued to serve as Honorary Commissioner of the Riverina Region.

Wayne's Service to Scouting in Australia was recognised through Scout Awards at various levels, culminating in the highest, the Silver Kangaroo, in 1998. This was to recognise his "eminent achievement and exceptional service to Scouts Australia". Wayne was presented with his 50 Year Service Award in 2019.

One of Wayne's proudest moments in his life was to be appointed a Life Member of Scouts Australia. This occurred in May 2004.

Significantly, in 2005, Wayne was honoured, through the Award of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), for "service to the Scouting Movement, particularly through the development and implementation of administrative and organisational initiatives."

Wayne was an extraordinarily dedicated volunteer with Scouts for most of his life. He will be remembered as a reformer, to ensure we all could support Scouting in the best possible way. Throughout his Scouting career, Wayne continually reminded us that Scouting was a Movement of young people with adults providing them with support and encouragement.

As well as his outstanding service to Scouting, Wayne made valuable contributions in so many other areas of our community. This included as:

- Mayor of Wagga Wagga City Council;
- Chairman, Wagga Wagga City Council Art Gallery Advisory Committee;
- Chairman, Wagga Wagga City Council Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee;
- Member, Wagga Wagga City Council Cultural Advisory Committee;
- Member, Riverina Regional Tourism Board, and
- Treasurer and Community Representative, Riverina Conservatorium of Music Board.

Details of a Memorial Service to commemorate Wayne's life will be advised as soon as they are known.

Our thoughts are with Wayne's wife, Barbara, and sons, Justin and Craig, at this very difficult time.

In the final of the great Scouting traditions, Wayne has now Gone Home. We salute you.

Vale Wayne John Geale, OAM – a great Scout. A great Scouter.